

Reports on the Situation of Hungarians Living Abroad

Government Office for Hungarian Minorities Abroad

Hungarians in Austria 2004

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Dear Reader,

Our renewed series of brochures containing the regional reports on the situation of the Hungarian minorities abroad, launched in summer 2000, supplemented and up-dated with the events and data of the year 2003, have now reached their fifth edition.

Like the previous year, last year was marked by the acceleration of the integration process and as part of it, the preparations for Hungary becoming a member of the European Union on 1 May 2004. And following the entry into force in July 2003 of the law on Hungarians living in the neighbouring countries, the practical implementation of the benefit law received new impetus.

During the year since the signing on 16 April 2003 in Athens of the agreement on Hungary's accession to the EU, every Union member state ratified the accession agreement, and as of May 1st of this year, Hungary is a full-fledged member of the European Union. This event will naturally basically determine our policy toward our neighbours and also our relations with the Hungarian minorities living in those countries. While in the past, though taking into account the local characteristics of the various countries, we more or less followed the same approach toward the Hungarian communities in the Carpathian Basin, but this situation has changed with Hungary's entry into the EU. The Hungarians living in the countries which join the Union at the same time as we do, namely Slovakia and Slovenia, basically require a different approach. Those living in neighbouring countries like Romania and Croatia which will join the EU in the near future are facing different opportunities, and again different challenges will confront those Hungarians living in countries like Serbia and Montenegro and Ukraine, which are likely to enter the European mainstream only after a longer period of time.

The Hungarian government pursues two objectives in the sphere of the relations between Hungarians in Hungary and Hungarians abroad. On the one hand, we consider as important the preservation and maintenance of the results and values achieved since the change of political regime, together with the already existing Hungarian–Hungarian relations and their introduction into the EU. The work of the Hungarian Standing Conference and of the meeting of Hungarian parliamentary deputies in Hungary and abroad will continue, and we will preserve in a European framework the benefits and assistance ensured by the benefit law. On the other hand, we will seek to make an even better use of the opportunities provided by our joining the EU with regard to the cultivation of Hungarian–Hungarian relations by building into these relations all the positive and novel elements provided to us by EU membership.

As a result of our EU membership, relations with the Hungarians living in the EU member states will be intensified, we will have an increasing number of common affairs, will establish new mutual ties, will participate together in the work of a growing number of international organizations, and the opportunities to exchange views and to get together will increase. Union membership will bring us closer to the Hungarian communities in the countries which are joining the EU with us, but at the same time it should not put a distance between us and those who cannot join with us. It is our common responsibility to prevent the erection of intellectual and psychological walls between the national communities joining the EU and those who are left outside of it. Therefore, Hungary will after its accession pay particular attention to those Hungarians who do not yet benefit from the advantages of EU membership. We cannot under any circumstances permit that they experience as losers the EU's enlargement process which aims precisely at establishing closer relations.

At the same time, Hungary's accession to the EU is also a watershed with regard to its European identity. This is the moment when the new arrivals take their place in the complex system of values of the member states, must determine the priorities and points of contact which will permit them in the future to become engaged in politics within the Union. This is why the first appearances and „introductions” of the new members on the fora of the EU are very important. On 4 October 2003 in Rome, at the opening session of the EU's Intergovernmental Conference, Hungary's prime minister stressed four important issues which are important for Hungary in connection with the finalisation of the EU's constitutional treaty. Among these issues, the first was the request that the Intergovernmental Conference should place on its agenda the respect and protection of national minority rights and include it in an adequate form in the Constitutional Treaty.

The government's commitment to the minority cause was demonstrated by its firm stand in asking, taking also into consideration the nationalities in Hungary, for a reference to the collective rights of minorities in the draft constitution of the EU. At its 8 October 2003 session, the European Union Committee of the Hungarian Parliament accepted with the agreement of all parliamentary parties a proposal regarding the issue of minority rights. The text of the proposal was as follows: „The Union is based on the values of the respect for human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, the rule of law, as well as human rights, including national and ethnic minority rights. These values are common in the member states, in a society characterized by pluralism, tolerance, justice, solidarity, and the absence of discrimination.” It was no fault of the Hungarian government that at the 13–14 December 2003 meeting of the Council of Europe in Brussels, this proposal was included in a somewhat weakened form in the document because of the opposition of a few countries. Instead of designating minority rights as possibly being interpreted as collective rights, the proposal was narrowed down exclusively to a formulation of minority rights by mentioning the personal rights of persons belonging to a minority but omitting the words national and ethnic contained in the Hungarian proposal.

An important circumstance is the fact that our becoming a member of the EU does not require the modification of the benefit law. In the Europe of the 25 and the field of the many kinds of interests and counterinterests, the government is seeking to establish the foundations upon which Hungarians can build in the next years and decades within the framework of the Union. It is also in conformity with the same principles that the government is formulating its relations with the countries neighboring Hungary and adjusting its political steps toward them.

It was precisely for this reason that for many long months the government held harmonization talks with its neighbors. Thanks to this process, a law which is in conformity with the EU was created, on the basis of which the benefits it contains for the Hungarians living abroad will be ensured in the long term and without any hindrance.

The Office for Hungarians Abroad, which is responsible for the coordination of governmental activities related to the Hungarian government and the Hungarians living abroad, wishes to make use of the new and increased opportunities in order to assist as effectively as possible the Hungarian communities abroad to achieve prosperity in the land of their birth.

József Bálint-Pataki
Chairman

The Situation of Hungarians in Austria

According to the data of the 2001 census in the Republic of Austria, 40,583 persons (25,884 Austrian and 14,699 foreign citizens) designated Hungarian as their contact language in response to the question relating to the language they used in their surroundings (private contacts). This figure represents an increase of 7,124 or 21.29% compared to the figure registered ten years earlier. According to the Hungarian organizations in Austria, the number of persons living in Austria who consider themselves to be Hungarian or of Hungarian origin may be around 60,000 to 70,000. The increase registered in 2001 is due primarily to the political changes in Hungary during the past decade as a result of which Hungarians in Austria could declare their origin without any political considerations. The majority of them live primarily in Vienna and its surroundings, in other large cities (Graz, Linz, Salzburg, Innsbruck), and dispersed in other localities of the country. On the basis of their origin, they can be divided into two main groups. One of these is the „native” ethnic group in Burgenland which came under Austrian jurisdiction under the terms of the 1920 Trianon Peace Treaty and following the Sopron regional referendum which corrected the territorial provisions of the treaty. The second group consists of emigrants or refugees who settled down at various periods of time and whose numbers, together with those who arrived from the successor states in the Carpathian Basin, have increased until recent times.

1. THE HUNGARIAN IMMIGRANTS

The Hungarian *diaspora* actually developed during the period of the Dual Monarchy between Austria and Hungary that lasted until 1918 and reached particularly important dimensions at the time of the Compromise (*Ausgleich*) of 1867. (In 1910, 195,844 Hungarian citizens resided in Lower Austria, 139,000 of whom lived in Vienna; between 1881 and 1913, 75,592 persons of Hungarian origin acquired Austria citizenship). Later, a more significant number of political and economic emigrants settled down in Austria only after the two world wars and after 1956.

At the end of the Second World War, a large number of Hungarian military and civilian refugees remained in Hungary in the occupation zones of the Western Powers. By 1947, the majority of the refugees left mainly for overseas (North and South America, Australia). Emigrants of 1944–45 enjoyed the greatest movement of freedom in the French zone of occupation where the former members of the military soon began to organize themselves under the leadership of Generals Ferenc Farkas and András Zákó. The centre of the organization was Innsbruck. Lieutenant Colonel Ferenc Adonyi-Naredy was the leader of similar activities in the British zone in Carinthia. In 1947, the *Community of Fellow Soldiers* was formed and was renamed one year later the *Community of Hungarian Fighters* and moved its centre first to Germany and then to Canada. In 1947, the *Comradely So-*

ciety of the *Hungarian Royal Gendarmerie* was established in Graz and continued to function after 1949 as the *Community of the Hungarian Royal Gendarmerie*, with a significant number of its members later settling overseas. Under the pretext of „legal continuity”, members of the 1939 Hungarian Parliament who went abroad and other political elements established the *Group of Legislators Based on the Hungarian Historic Constitution*, later called the *Union*. The so-called moderate 39-ers formed the forefront of the group under the leadership of Count Béla Teleki, former Chairman of the Transylvanian Party, Count József Pálffy, and Lajos Máriaffi. Miklós Bonczos, former minister of the interior in the Lakatos Cabinet, established the *Hungarian Service*, an organization with a social program. These along with other organizations with similar programs formed the *National Anti-Bolshevik Force (BENE)* and which, despite their intention, were not able to achieve the role of a top body.

During the days of the 1956 Revolution and in the aftermath of the events (until April 1957), 180,288 Hungarian refugees were registered in Austria. By the end of June 1959, 75,525 of them had left for other West European countries, 82,300 had emigrated overseas, and 7,772 had returned to Hungary. Austria admitted as political refugees and gave permanent residency permit to all those individuals who wished to stay there or had not been accepted by other countries. The care and assistance of the 1956 refugees in Austria exceeded the absorbing capacity of the country, and therefore other Western countries also did their share in helping the large number of refugees. Next to the aid organizations operating in Austria, like the Austrian Red Cross, Caritas, the Lutheran Refugee Service, and the Federation of Austrian Trade Unions, a major role was played by the UN High Commissioner for Refugees. Among other aid organizations, one should mention *First Aid for Hungary* (whose representative in Austria was Lieutenant General Béla Lengyel), *Free Europe Citizen Service*, *Forumhilfe* and *Volkshilfe*, and *Hungarian Refugee Service* managed by László Taubinger.

At the end of 1956, the *World Federation of Political Refugees*, later called the *Federation of Hungarian Political Prisoners*, was founded in Vienna. At the beginning of 1957, the *Hungarian Freedom Fighters (National Guard) Society*, headed by General Béla Király, was established. The above-named politically oriented organizations hardly played any role in the development of the later community life and either ceased to exist within a short time or left neutral Austria which had developed a „special” relationship with Hungary. From the end of the 1970s on the remaining *émigré organizations* increasingly took a cultural and identity preserving character.

The recognition by the state of the statutes of the top body of the Hungarian associations outside Burgenland occurred on 12 November 1979. At a general assembly held on 7 May 1980 with the participation of representatives of 22 organizations, the *Central Federation of Hungarian Associations and Organizations in Austria (Zentralverband Ungarischer Vereine und Organisationen in Österreich)* was established. In the

meantime, the number of member organizations has dwindled to 15, but no organization still active has so far left the Federation.

As a top organization, the *Zentralverband* is the representative body of the member associations and harmonizes and coordinates their activities, and beyond that, functions as a planning and organizational centre for all undertakings exceeding the capabilities of the various member associations. The joint commemoration of national holidays in Vienna is organized each year by the Central Federation. Since March 1980 it publishes the bi-monthly *Bécsi Napló* (*Vienna Diary*) whose editor-in-chief is Dr. Ernő Deák; for the tenth year it runs the *Hungarian Theatre of Vienna* by presenting guest companies, and organizing concerts and exhibitions.

Since September 1987, the Central Federation maintains the *Hungarian School of Vienna*, with instruction taking place every second Saturday in the Urania building and since 2000 in the *Hungarian Home*. Year after year, the number of those enrolled reaches about 100 and a nursery group also functions since 1997. The staff consists of three kindergarten teachers and three female teachers. In addition, at the initiative of the Central Federation, instruction in the Hungarian language is given in six Vienna primary schools, and since 2001 in a school in Mödling for two hours a week outside of the regular teaching schedule.

In Fall 2001 a yearly advanced *teacher's training and adult education course* for a better knowledge of the Hungarian people (literary and cultural history, history, social knowledge, political geography, ethnography) was launched with the participation of 30 to 50 persons. These forms of children and adult education are financially supported by the Hungarian Ministry of Education and logistically by the Government Office for Hungarians Abroad.

In the past few years, the idea of establishing with the support of the Austrian state a Hungarian-language secondary school located in Vienna has come up on several occasions among the Hungarian community. The debate between supporters and opponents of the proposal over the possible number of students and degree of utilization of such a school appears to be undecided.

A scientific forum and at the same time a high level dissemination of knowledge are represented since September 1990 by the „*Kufstein Conferences*” organized every second year (the first such conference was held at the castle of Kufstein) at which, in connection with selected topics or anniversaries, experts from the Carpathian Basin and Hungary deliver lectures. On each occasion, the material of the conferences is also published as a book. After a one-year forced interruption due to lack of financial support, the most recent conference was held for the fourth time in September 2003 in Felsőpulya (Oberpullendorf).

The institutes of higher education in Austria do not have a Hungarian-language section. The students enrolled at the *Finno-Ugrian Faculty of the University of Sciences of Vienna* may take a separate teacher's qualifying examination. Moreover, students can earn a kindergarten teacher's qualification certificate at Hungarian-language and bilingual courses at the *Kindergarten Education Centre of Felsőőr*.

Possibilities for supplying these educational institutes with teaching and support materials as well as methodological consultation are provided through the assistance of the Hungarian Ministry of Education and on the basis of an agreement between the *Education Centres of Eisenstadt* (Kismarton) and of *Sopron*.

No independent Hungarian party or political organization functions in Austria.

At the initiative and urging of the Central Federation, the Austrian government on 30 June 1992 (the Parliament approved the Council of Ministers' decision on 9 July) recognized the Hungarians with Austrian citizenship living in Vienna and its vicinity as an ethnic group. As a result, the number of the members of the *Hungarian Ethnic Group Council* rose from 8 in 1993 to 16 (with a fifty-fifty ratio representation for Burgenland and Vienna). The expanded body held its inaugural meeting on 25 March 1993 and is renewed every four years.

The organizations functioning independently from the Central Federation include among others the *Hungarian Workers' Association of Vienna* founded in 1896, and since 1960 the Péter Bornemisza Society.

As generally among dispersed émigré communities, the Churches have also played an important role in the lives of the Hungarians in Austria. Hungarian church offices, both Protestant and Catholic, were established one after the other primarily under the impact of the waves of refugees of 1956, even though Hungarian masses and religious services had been traditionally held until then, in particular in Vienna.

The Hungarian Pastoral Service of the Lutheran Church (Ungarischer Seelsorgendienst der Evangelischen Kirche AB in Österreich) carried out its tasks as a regular branch office but already in the 1960s the Church Head Council stated that Hungarian-language pastoral care was justified only as long as the refugees had not mastered the German language. For Roman Catholics, separate church offices outside Burgenland and in addition to Vienna functioned in Graz, Linz, Innsbruck, and Klagenfurt. Today all this belongs to the past. The church offices in Graz and Klagenfurt were discontinued in the 1990s but Hungarian-language mass is still being celebrated once a month in both cities, and periodically in Klagenfurt and Salzburg. The priest in Linz presently serves full-time in an Austrian parish, and the Hungarian priest in Vienna performs his tasks as a pensioner. Since the death of István Szépfalusy and of his retired successor, Protestant services are held by guest ministers from Hungary.

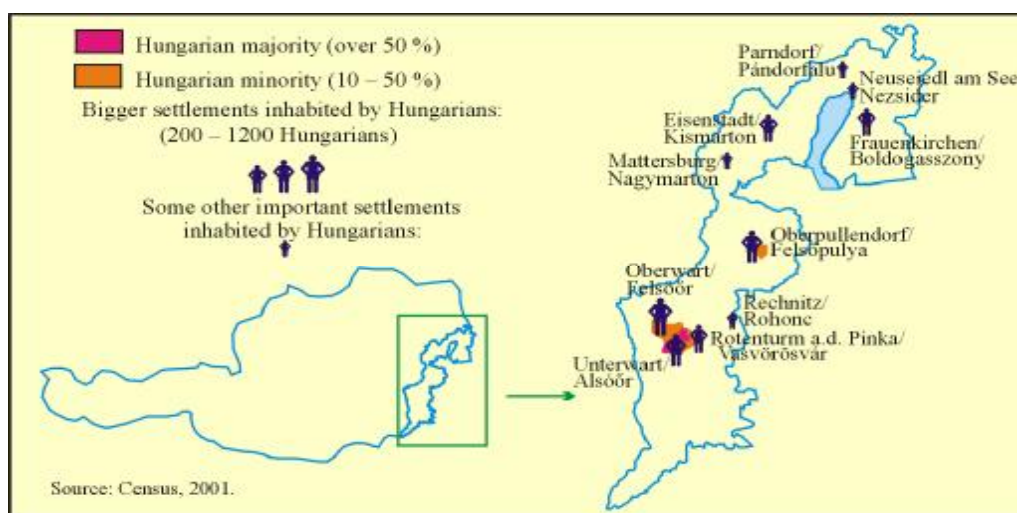
Austria's ethnic groups live in settled circumstances albeit within very narrow parameters. Nevertheless, increasingly large restrictions are taking place, especially with regard to Hungarians. The Central Federation objects to the fact that the Chancellery, despite the funds at its disposal, did not assume the financing of the costs of the Hungarian Home purchased in Fall 1999 at a price of 3.5 million ATS and totalling 4.5 million ATS with alterations and other expenses included. As a result, the repayment of the long-term loan put the organization in a very difficult situation. Difficulties were further increased by the fact that the Chancellery compelled the Central Federation to repay (in seven annual payments) the already disbursed aid in the amount of 295,000 ATS. The organization was obliged to accept the repayment of the amount because a refusal would have resulted in the cessation of any further budgetary support.

The minority rights enshrined in the Austrian legal system – in accordance with the 1976 law on ethnic groups – theoretically also ensure the survival of ethnic groups in the sphere of financial support, but the practical application of the law can nevertheless puts the ethnic groups in an impossible financial situation.

2. THE HUNGARIANS OF BURGENLAND (ŐRVIDÉK)

The indigenous Hungarian ethnic group lives in the province of Burgenland in eastern Austria. It numbered 24,867 according to the 1920 Hungarian census based on the mother tongue, and has been reduced to one-sixth of that number since the transfer of the territory to Austria. In the 2001 census on the basis of the language used in the immediate surroundings, 6,641 persons (of whom 4,704 were Austrian citizens and 1,937 foreign citizens) declared themselves to be Hungarians. This figure represents a 5.4% decrease compared to the figure of ten years ago.

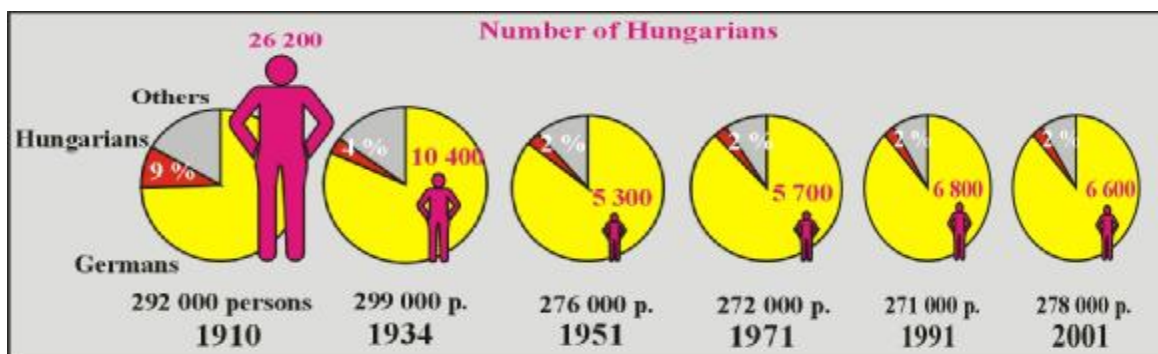
Figure 1 **Hungarians in Burgenland**



The drop was mostly felt in the localities of Unterwart (Alsóőr) and Oberwart (Felsőőr) which are considered to be the traditional centres of the indigenous Hungarian minority. The numerical decrease in other localities has lessened, presumably thanks to the arrival of new settlers.

Local estimates are of the opinion that the Hungarian community is numerically larger but this could be proven only if the question asked in the census would refer to mother tongue or origin. As a result of the question now being asked, the persons of Hungarian origin and self-identity living in mixed marriages or in exclusively German-language communities hardly appear in official statistics. The aging of the Hungarian minority, the linguistic and cultural influence of the German environment, and the economic attraction of the large cities are also responsible for this numerical decrease. Emigration and assimilation appear to accelerate but the process could be slowed down by means of more resolute assistance. The view that the assimilation of the Hungarians of Burgenland is of an entirely spontaneous nature is open to debate. For a long time, the difficulty in having direct contacts with Hungary and the subtle acceleration of this process on the part of Austria also played a role. From the change of regime in Hungary on until recently, this was also due to the economic fears on the Austrian side that with the opening of the border between the two countries, Burgenland investors showed a growing interest in the west Hungarian region compared to that in the province. Nowadays this trend seems to have reversed itself, with Austrian enterprises attracting not only working capital through price policy and other maneuvers but also purchasing power and the still cheaper labour force from Hungary over to the Austrian side of the border. All this could contribute to a repetition of the trends felt at the turn of the 1990s and give a new impetus to the economic development of the province of Burgenland.

Figure 2 **Burgenland's nationality composition and Hungarian population trend between 1910 and 2001**



Minority education in Burgenland is regulated by the provincial law on minority school law adopted in 1994, and the compulsory instruction of the minority language in elementary and higher elementary schools by the 1995 provincial school

law. On that basis *bilingual instruction* is currently taking place in the elementary schools of Alsóőr (Unterwart) and Órsziget (Siget in der Wart), and *optional Hungarian language exercise* is offered in ten more schools. The Hungarian language is used in nursery schools in Felsőpulya (Oberpullendorf), Órsziget, Felsőőr (Oberwart) and Alsóőr.

There is no independent Hungarian-language *high school* in Burgenland since 1920. Progress in this field was made from the 1981/82 school year on with the creation of a *Hungarian-language section* in the high school of Felsőlövő (OberSchützen) and from the 1987/88 school year with the setting up of a so-called „*Pannonian*” class in which Hungarian and Croatian are taught as compulsory subjects. A *bilingual high school* with a Hungarian and a Croatian section opened its doors in Felsőőr in 1992. Some discrepancies can still be found, however, between the legal regulations ensuring Hungarian-language instruction and their use in practice and this does not make it possible for students to master the Hungarian language at an adequate level. (25.9% of the population of Felsőőr and 23.9% of that of Felsőpulya received Hungarian-language instruction in the course of their life).

Some two-thirds of the Hungarians in Burgenland are *Roman Catholic*. In 1998, the *parish of Alsóőr* (Unterwart) came under the jurisdiction of the Head Abbacy of the Benedictine Order in Pannonhalma, Hungary, which until the recent retirement of vicar Dr. Ireneusz Galambos OSB was one of the regional centres for the cultivation of Hungarian language and culture. The majority of the Hungarian Catholic priests serving in Austria completed their studies in Hungary.

The *Reformed (Calvinist) Church* of Burgenland has its only congregation in Felsőőr (Oberwart), while the Lutheran Church has one in Órsziget (Siget in der Wart). The assimilation of the two Protestant congregations is at an advanced stage because part of the religious services is in the German language. The Calvinist minister of Felsőőr completed his studies in Hungary and the one of Órsziget in Transylvania.

Since 1990 Burgenland's ORF Television broadcasts four times a year a half-hour program for the Hungarian minority entitled „*Good Day Hungarians!*”. In the mid-1990s, citing the low level of audience, the provincial cable television society took off the Hungarian-language programs from its main airtime and also drastically cut their content then discontinued them. Outside intervention became practically impossible because of the fact that cable television is a profit-oriented private society that cannot be influenced with other arguments.

Since 1 January 2002, the *Burgenland studio of Austrian Radio* (ORF) is broadcasting a five-minute daily program and a 25-minute Sunday program in the Hungarian language. The „*Heimat, fremde Heimat*” magazine of Vienna’s ORF reports from time to time on events organized by the Hungarian organizations. Among the commercial radios, „*Radio MORA – Multilingual Open Radio*” broadcasts a one-hour program in each of the Hungarian, Croatian and Roma languages dealing with questions affecting the minorities.

The *Hungarian Cultural Association of Burgenland*, formed in 1968 with its seat in Felsőőr is the main interest representation body of the indigenous Hungarian ethnic group in the province. With its publications and programs, it not only serves the preservation of the Hungarian minority and cross-border cooperation but also the cultivation of relations with the majority population. The current chairman of the organization is József Plank. With regard to organizations, the *Hungarian Adult Education College of Burgenland* with seat in Alsóőr and the *Information and Media Centre of Alsóőr* deserve mention. The *Hungarian Cultural Association of Central Burgenland*, with seat in Felsőpulya, was established in Spring 2003.

3. GENERAL FINDINGS ABOUT THE SITUATION OF THE HUNGARIANS IN AUSTRIA

The document entitled „*Report on the Situation of Ethnic Minorities in the Republic of Austria*” prepared for the „Wise Men” of the European Union (Martti Ahtasaari, Prof. Dr. Jochen Frowein, Dr. Mercelino Oreja) by the Austrian Centre for Ethnic Groups (Österreichisches Volksgruppenzentrum) presented in detail the situation of Austria’s ethnic groups and supported its findings with the applicable legal background in force. The report, adopted without major objections by the members of the Centre’s committee, also gives a correct historical review of the Hungarian ethnic group in Austria which constitutes a linguistic island („Sprachinsel” in the province of Burgenland. It refers to the numerical change underwent by the Hungarian population since 1920 and also to the fact that in the censuses held since then, the viewpoints for data collection („Umgangssprache” – language for daily contacts, „Muttersprache” – mother tongue, „Familiensprache” – language used in the family, „Denksprache” – the language for thinking, „Kulturkreis” – cultural circle) changed several times. The report finds that major decrease and assimilation characterize all ethnic groups.

The document breaks down the changes in Austria’s minority policy since the Second World War into the following periods: *permissive* (Gewährungspolitik, 1945–1955), *hindering* (Verhinderungspolitik, 1955–1972), *restrictive* (Restriktive Politik, 1972–1988), *dialogue* (Dialogpolitik, 1988–1994), *ignoring* (Ignoranzpolitik, 1994–2000) and *monitoring* (Monitoring Politik, since 2000). The constitutional law that came into force in summer 2000 (Staatszielbestimmung) gives the following definition of state-building ethnic groups (Volksgruppen): „The Republic is charac-

terized by linguistic and cultural diversity which expresses itself in the form of indigenous ethnic groups. Attention must be paid and guarantee and support must be given to the survival and preservation of the ethnic groups' language and culture." Each ethnic group, including the Hungarian one, receives an annual support from the state budget.

On the basis of the Austrian country report, the *Council of Europe's Advisory Committee* drafted a report on the implementation by Austria of the frame agreement on minority protection. The members of the committee also made personal inquiries in Austria in December 2001. This *report* ascertains that the situation of the Croatian, Slovene, Hungarian, Czech and Slovak minorities is characterized by harmonious coexistence with the majority nation on the basis of tolerance. At the same time, it finds that progress is needed in consolidating and developing the institutions for the teaching of the Hungarian, Czech and Slovak languages, and further in increasing in the media sphere the television and radio programs for the Hungarian, Czech, and Slovak minorities.

The Hungarian ethnic group in Austria does not have any territorial autonomy and has no guaranteed parliamentary representation, bilingual documents (such as identity card), and independent economic structure and activity. It is entitled to the official use of the minority language in four localities, to its use in the courts in two localities, and to bilingual locality name signs (German–Croatian and German–Hungarian) in four localities (Felsőpulya (Oberpullendorf), Felsőőr (Oberwart), Alsóőr (Unterwart), and Őrsziget (Siget in der Wart)). The locality name signs were placed in 2000.

4. HUNGARIAN ORGANIZATIONS IN THE REPUBLIC OF AUSTRIA

Central Federation of Hungarian Organizations and Associations in Austria (Zentralverband Ungarischer Vereine und Organisationen in Österreich)

President: Dr. Ernő Deák

Founded: on 7 May 1980 in Vienna.

Objectives: The representation of the community (organizational) interests of Hungarians of Austrian citizenship toward the relevant Austrian authorities and abroad. The recognition of the Hungarian ethnic groups of Austrian nationality outside of Burgenland as an ethnic community served this purpose. This was done in July 1992 on the part of the Austrian government with regard to the Hungarians in Vienna and Lower Austria.

Functions:

- representative body
- coordinating authority

- organizational centre

Activities:

- Joint commemoration of Hungarian national holidays
- Bimonthly publication of *Bécsi Napló* (*Vienna Journal*) since March 1980; publication of the trilingual *Országos Calendar* (since 1985); publishing house by the name of *Sodalitas* (reminiscent of the Danubian Scholars' Society of 1497–1508);
- Maintaining since September 1988 the so-called Hungarian School of Vienna;
- Holding since 1990 biannual so-called „Kufstein” conferences of Hungarians living in Western Europe and of minority Hungarians entitled: „*Seaching a Way into the Future*” Kufstein, 1990, „*Being a minority is no fate but a mission*” (Kismarton/Eisenstadt, 1992); „*Organization and network system of scattered Hungarian minorities*” (Innsbruck, 1994); „*Consciousness and History*” (Felsőpulya/Oberpullendorf), 1996); „*1848–1849: Legacy and Remembrance – Erbe und Erinnerung*” (Felsőpulya, 1998); „*What is Man Worth if Hungarian? The Historical Components of Hungarian Consciousness*” (Felsőpulya, 2000), „*The European Union and Ethnic Minorities – Diagnosis and Prediction*” (Felsőpulya, 2003)
- Publishing the materials of the conferences in independent volumes;
- Commemoration in September 1991 of the 200th anniversary of the birth of Count István Széchenyi, followed by a scientific conference in the German language;
- The „Hungarian Theatre of Vienna” operates since 1995, with the appearance two to three times a year of Hungarian minority theatre companies;
- Joint celebration on 18 May 1996 in Felsőőr (Oberwart) with the Hungarian Cultural Association of Burgenland of the 1100th anniversary of the arrival of the Hungarian tribes into the Carpathian basin, and the millennium of the first mention of Austria;
- Commemoration on 26 October 1996 of the 40th anniversary of the 1956 Hungarian Revolution in Mosonmagyaróvár and Mosontarcsa (Andau);
- Organization on 4 November 1996 of a reception to express gratitude to Austrian and international aid organizations, as well as to the Vienna representations of those countries which supported and admitted Hungarian refugees in 1956;
- Holding on 23 September 2000 of an international folklore festival in Vienna's city hall with the participation of Hungarian choirs and dance ensembles from eight countries;
- Holding on 20–21 October 2000 of a German-language international conference entitled „*One-Thousand Years of Living Together in Central Europe*”;
- Publication for more than ten years of the program bulletin listing the events

organized by the Hungarian associations in Vienna;

- Organization of occasional exhibits and concerts.

Member Associations:

Vienna:

- Hungarian Roman Catholic Church Office (clergyman: György Hegyi)
- St. Stephen Society (chairwoman: Katalin Stipsicz)
- „Europa” Club (executive secretary: Dr. András Smuk)
- „Jenő Kerkai” Hungarian Church Sociological Institute (head: Dr. Imre András, SJ)
- „Kaláka” Club; Economic Interest Community of Hungarians in Austria (chairman: Béla Kocsis)

Graz:

- Roman Catholic Hungarian Church Office (lay chairman: Mihály Ugri)
- Christiana Hungaria
- Club of Hungarian Students and Academics (University Students) (chairman: Sándor Páll)

Linz:

- Roman Catholic Hungarian Church Office (clergyman: Ernő Szabó)
- Hungarian Cultural Association of Upper-Austria (chairwoman: Erika Simonffy)
- „Árpád” boy scout troop No. 80 (troop leader: Erzsébet Seiche)

Innsbruck:

- Roman Catholic Hungarian Church Office (lay chairman: Dr. Ádám Csordás, university professor)
- Federation of Hungarian Academics and University Students of Innsbruck (chairwoman: Gabriella Schenk)
- Hungarian Student Hostel Association (chairman: Dr. Tamás Meleghy, university professor)

Salzburg:

- Hungarian Circle of Salzburg (chairman: Dipl. Ing. Péter Karsay)

Péter Bornemisza Society (Péter Bornemisza Gesellschaft)

Chairman: Dr. Miklós Béla Bartók

Top Organization of Independent Hungarian Cultural Associations of Aus-

tria (Dachverband der Unabhängigen Ungarischen Vereine in Österreich)

Chairwoman: Anna Pokorny

Hungarian Cultural Association of Burgenland (Burgenländisch–Ungarischer Kulturverein)

Chairman: Dipl. Ing. József Plank

Founded: in 1968 in Felsőőr.

Objective: official representation of the Hungarians of Burgenland, promotion of the use and preservation of the Hungarian language, cultivation of the local Hungarian traditions, support of students wanting to master the Hungarian language (acquisition of textbooks and teaching aid materials, organization of language summer camps in Hungary), organization of programs, publication of Hungarian-language press materials. At the time of the writing of this Report, the creation of a youth group had begun.

Functions: a „cultural and social” association independent from parties and churches, with activities covering the territory of the federal province of Burgenland. It receives since 1988 support from the Austrian state budget which enables it to maintain an office and employ a full-time administrative staff member. The most important events organized in 2003 included a Liszt musical evening, a language camp at Lake Balaton, Hungary, a celebration to mark the 35th anniversary of the existence of the Association, the 15th scientific conference of the Hungarian Institute of Burgenland, the jubilee program for the 10th anniversary of the children’s newspaper „Hírhozó” (Messenger), the presentation of the photo album entitled „Burgenland”, and participation at the international meeting of Christmas carol singers in Budapest.

Publications: „Őrvidéki Hírek” (Őrvidék News), with program offers, regional news, and reports, published monthly in 450 copies; „Őrség”, a magazine-type informative publication, with a German-language summary. Published once or twice a year in 900 copies. „Hírhozó” (Messenger), a children’s and youth newspaper, published ten times during the school year in 700 copies. „Őrségi Füzetek” (Őrség Booklets), occasional publication (such as the materials of the meetings of the Hungarian Institute) in 900 copies. The publications are not sold commercially and are sent by mail to the registered members.

Hungarian Cultural Association of Central Burgenland (Ungarischer Kulturverein Mittelburgenland)

Chairman: G. József Jenei

People’s Academy of the Hungarians of Burgenland (Volkshochschule der Burgenländischen Ungarn)

Head: Mag. Attila Somogyi

The Association won in 2003 the „Europasiegel” Prize of Brussels which was

handed over to its director bei Frau Elisabeth Gehrler, Austrian Minister of Education. The aim of the winning project is to make it possible for those living in Burgenland, from children to adults, to master the Hungarian language. The association wants to achieve this goal partly by organizing courses for students seeking to enroll in the bilingual (Hungarian–Croatian) federal high school of Felsőőr (Oberwart) and by means of its summer extension courses at Órsziget (Sieg in der Wart). Students from other countries in the Carpathian Basin who already speak Hungarian are also admitted to the extension courses.



Reports On the Situation Of Hungarians Living Abroad

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