

Territorial Autonomies in Europe: Solutions and Challenges

International Conference organized by the Research Institute for Hungarian Communities Abroad

8-9th April, 2013

H-1014 Budapest, Szentháromság tér 6.

Program (April 8)

Venue: Corvin Hall

10:00

Registration

11:00 – 11:10

Welcoming speech

- Zoltán KÁNTOR, Director of the Research Institute for Hungarian Communities Abroad

11:10 – 11:25

Opening address

- Zsolt SEMJÉN, Deputy Prime Minister of Hungary

11:25 – 12:40

Keynote speakers (Moderator: Zoltán KÁNTOR)

- Andreas GROSS, MP (National Council of Switzerland) and Member of PACE (Switzerland):
"Autonomy as Part of the Democratisation Process"
- Markku SUKSI, Professor of Public Law, Åbo Akademi (Finland):

"Territorial Autonomy: the Åland Islands in Comparison with Other Sub-State Entities"

- David SMITH, Professor of Baltic History and Politics, University of Glasgow (UK)
"The Devolution Process in the United Kingdom: Lessons and Challenges"

12:40 – 13:00 **Questions**

13:00 – 13:40 **Lunch**

13:40 – 15:20 **Panel Meeting** (Moderator: Norbert TÓTH, Researcher, Research Institute for Hungarian Communities Abroad)

- András JAKAB, Schumpeter Fellow, Max Planck Institute for Comparative Public Law and International Law in Heidelberg; Director of the Institute for Legal Studies, Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Centre for Social Sciences (Hungary):
"Constitutional Visions of the Nation"
- Günther RAUTZ, Senior Researcher, European Academy of Bozen/Bolzano (Italy):
"South Tyrolean Autonomy as a Model for Coexistence between Ethnic Groups"
- Sabrina RAGONE, Researcher, Centre of Constitutional and Political Sciences (Spain): *"Catalonia's Recent Strive for Independence: a Legal Approach"*
- Tamás KORHECZ, President of the Hungarian National Council (Serbia):
"Non-territorial autonomy in practice: the Hungarian National Council in Serbia"

15:20 – 15:50 **Questions, debate**

15:50 – 16:00 **Closing remarks**

- Zsuzsanna RÉPÁS, Deputy Secretary of State for Hungarian Communities Abroad

Program (April 9)

Venue: Deák Hall

Workshop with experts of the question of autonomy within three panels in a row (Each panel commences with one or two lectures followed by a debate)

Panelists: The participants of April 8 (Andreas Gross; Markku Suksi; David Smith; Günther Rautz; Sabrina Ragone; Tamás Korhecz; András Jakab) and other experts (Vajk Farkas, Pázmány Péter Catholic University, Századvég Foundation; Andrew Ludanyi, University of Ohio, Research Institute for Hungarian Communities Abroad; Zoltán Kántor; Norbert Tóth)

Panel No. 1.

9:00 – 10:10

Autonomy is (Almost) at Hand – Theoretical and Practical

Questions

- Levente SALAT, Professor of Political Science, Babes-Bolyai University (Romania):
‘The Chances of Ethnic Autonomy in Romania - Between Theory and Practice’

10:10 – 10:25

Coffee break

Panel No. 2.

10:25 – 11:35

Paths and Ways Towards Autonomy

- Viktória FERENC, Researcher of the Research Institute for Hungarian Communities Abroad (Hungary): *“Autonomy Ambitions in Transcarpathia”*
- Géza TOKÁR, political scientist, spokesperson, journalist, Roundtable of the Hungarians living in Slovakia (Slovakia) *“Autonomy in Slovakia - Challenges and Problems”*

11:35 – 11:50

Coffee break

Panel No. 3.

11:50 – 13:00

Devolution of Powers – To what Extent?

- Balázs VIZI, Professor of Public International Law, National University of Public Service (Hungary)

13:00

Closing remarks

The language of the conference is English, Hungarian interpretation will be provided on the first day.

Registration: npki@bgazrt.hu