

RESUME

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The Legal Framework and the Application of Law for the Protection of Minorities in the Neighboring States of Hungary

Central and Eastern Europe is an extremely diverse region of Europe in terms of culture, language and ethnicity. This article focuses on minority rights related legislation in the seven neighboring countries of Hungary. Firstly, the existing legal framework is introduced while the implementation of it is the subject of its second part. Besides the descriptive approach, a comparative method is also used throughout the article. Various fields of societal interactions as well as the application of law in such areas as education, public administration, the judiciary, culture, economy and other fields. The manuscript analyses the relevance in these areas to the relationship between the national and minority communities.

László HORVÁTH

**The Evolution of Parliamentary Representation of National Minorities
in the Serbian Electoral System**

This study analyzes how the representation of national minorities in the National Assembly of Serbia has changed since the first democratic parliamentary elections after regime change. To this end, it traces the legislative evolution shaping the electoral system with a particular focus on those aspects which have affected national minorities. Additionally, it explores how major and more comprehensive amendments to the electoral system, and minor adjustments in the provisions of the legal framework are reflected in everyday practice. The analysis seeks to answer the question whether the changes in the electoral system have influenced the effective representation of national minorities in the parliament, if so, whether they have facilitated or hindered the realization of this representation.

Krisztián MANZINGER**The Objective of Latvian Education Policy: Assimilation or Integration?**

Nation-state building and compulsory education have long been creating a challenge in the relationship between the state and minorities, both in terms of the language and the content of curriculum. This is no different in Latvia, which is home to significant minority communities. In this respect, a particularly significant shift occurred during the Soviet occupation, when decades-long resettlement policies increased the Russian population to one third and decreased the Latvians to 52 percent of the population by 1989. During the Soviet period, the primary language of instruction was Russian, which Latvia sought to correct after the restoration of independence in 1991 by increasing the role of Latvian, particularly in education. The reshaping of the educational system has been going on for decades and now it seems to have achieved the Latvian legislator's goal: the restriction of minority language education and the introduction of an exclusive Latvian-language education, with the exception of only minority language and culture courses taught in the mother tongue. According to the state institutions, the abolition of minority language education in the general curriculum is for the sake of more effective social integration. This approach however, if the geopolitical perspective is disregarded, creates a matter of concern from a purely human rights point of view.