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Abstract:
The first part of the study focuses on the establishment and operation of the Government Council of the SSR for Nationalities (minorities) and the changes that took place in the Council in the 1970s. The second part of the study deals with issues of higher education for minorities in the SR through the materials of the Government Council of the SSR for Nationalities during this period.

The Government Council of the SSR for Nationalities was an advisory body. Its role was to professionally review the materials and decisions submitted to the Government, to participate in the preparation of laws and measures of the Government concerning nationalities, and to submit to the Government and its bodies initiatives for the management of the economic, social and cultural life of nationalities. The preparation of materials was provided through standing working committees, temporary working groups and the expertise of research and science institutes. The first Council meetings indicated a more positive intent towards their work. However, their later activity was marked by Normalization. Thus, expectations of the Government Council of the SSR for Nationalities were not fulfilled. It was originally expected that the Council and their standing and temporary committees would be comprehensively and systematically preparing measures to address minority problems, initiate solutions, legislative standards, and so on. However, the Council gradually became the official appendage of the Normalization mechanism of power. In October 1971, changes were made to the composition of the Government Council of the SSR for Nationalities, following previous Normalization resolutions passed by the Communist Party bodies. A notable change was that the new Council composition reflected new Normalization tendencies. People who had been in some way discredited in the previous periods, primarily for political reasons resulting in occupation by Warsaw Pact troops in 1968, were removed. Regarding the further activities of the Council, changes were brought about by the Normalization process. The Council’s activities were limited to a formal, bureaucratic mechanism for reviewing reports on the development of individual nationally mixed regions. The Council completely stopped the development of legislative standards and the anticipated further regulations to further develop the Act on Nationalities.

In their activities, the Government Council of the SSR for Nationalities frequently dealt with the issue of minorities’ education, and the issue of higher education. Changes in the Council's activities in the 1970s also reflected the issue of higher education. The work of the Government Council of the SSR for Nationalities in the area of higher education was limited; in particular to reviewing various types of reports and information on nationalities and issuing opinions on these reports. The reviewed reports and information on higher education were mostly materials prepared by the Ministry of Education, which the Council or the Council’s Secretariat prepared comments on, or materials prepared by the Council’s Secretariat for the needs of the Government Council of the SSR for Nationalities.

The reviewed reports and information focused on several issues. A large part of the reports and information concerned the position of Hungarian and Ukrainian nationals in Slovakia. Within these reports a large amount of attention was paid to the overview of statistical information on the educational level and nationality structure of

University students. The greatest attention in the area of higher education was devoted to the issue of nationality in the educational level of the population of Slovakia; especially the disproportionate share of students of Hungarian nationality at universities. In the 1970s, there was a gradual increase of Hungarian students in the total number of university students at universities. However, even this increase was not able to compensate for the differences from previous periods in the educational level of the Hungarian population in the Slovak Republic.

Another observed area covered statistical information on the admission of students of Hungarian and Ukrainian nationality to secondary schools and universities. The reports highlighted, in particular, the problems with the number of admitted students of Hungarian nationality, and the fact that the number of Hungarian nationals applying for university studies only gradually increased. Despite the increase in the number of newly-admitted students of Hungarian nationality in individual school years, the number of newly-admitted students in some faculties still did not correspond with the needs. Such examples included the Faculty of Law of the Comenius University in Bratislava, the Faculty of Medicine in Bratislava and Košice, the Agricultural University of Nitra and the University of Economics in Bratislava; where the share and the number of students of Hungarian nationality remained at a historical low.

The attention of the Government of the SSR for Nationalities was also paid to measures to increase the proportion of students of Hungarian nationality at technical universities. The low number of students applying for these schools was perceived as a serious obstacle to balancing the number of students of Hungarian nationality at secondary vocational schools and universities. Another observed problem was still the significant difference in the number of students who, at their own request, left their studies during the 1st year of university. While the national average was 14.16%, in the case of students of Hungarian nationality it was as much as 22.3%. The most common causes were difficulties in their study and fear of examinations due to insufficient knowledge of Slovak language and, in some courses, insufficient knowledge of professional terminology from natural sciences and technical disciplines.

Special attention in the Government Council of the SSR for Nationalities was devoted to education and training of teachers for the needs of minority education, qualification of teachers of minority schools and their preparation for various types of national minority schools. The qualification of teachers of minority schools proved to be a long-term problem. The preparation of teachers for Hungarian language schools was carried out at the Faculty of Education in Nitra and at the Faculty of Arts of the Comenius University in Bratislava. There was also a long-term problem of qualification of teachers of minority schools with even the Ministry of Education of the SSR stating in 1977 that there was shortage of qualified teachers for the Slovak language, Civic Education, Music, Art and Physical Education at primary and secondary schools which had Hungarian language for instruction. Nevertheless, according to the schedule of students newly admitted into the first year of university for the school year 1978/79, the Hungarian Department of the Faculty of Education in Nitra admitted only 35 first-years Other faculties of higher education in the SSR with teaching courses, such as the Faculty of Natural Sciences of the CU, the Faculty of Natural Sciences of UPJS in Košice and the Faculty of Physical Education and Sport of the CU in Bratislava did not specifically define the planned numbers for the preparation of teachers of minority schools. Therefore, it was not possible to find out in what form and at which faculty the educational system provided education of qualified teachers for primary and secondary schools with Hungarian and Ukrainian language of instruction, in subjects such as Chemistry, Biology, Geography, Physical Education.

In conclusion, we can state that the content of individual reports reviewed at the Government Council of the SSR for Nationalities was largely repeated, as were the individual justifications of the problems described in the minority education system or the tasks for individual institutions (the Government, ministries, the Government Council for Nationalities, etc.) dedicated to addressing these issues.

In this period, the Council's activities in the field of minority higher education, but also the overall work of the Council, reflect changes caused by the Normalization process. While at the beginning of its existence, the Council of the SSR for Nationalities had an ambition to participate in the preparation of legislative standards to develop the Act on Nationalities or to influence the tackling of the minority issue, later the Council's activity was limited to reviewing reports on the development of individual nationally mixed regions and the Government Council of the SSR for Nationalities completely stopped preparing legislative standards and the expected further regulations to further develop the Act on Nationalities.

**Keywords:**
As of January 1st 1969, the Constitutional Act on the Czechoslovak Federation and the Constitutional Act on the Status of Nationalities in the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic (CSSR) came into force.\(^1\) Subsequently, several institutions were set up in Slovakia that focused on nationality issues. In addition to the Department for Nationalities of the Office of the Government of the Slovak Socialist Republic (SSR), the Department for Minority Education of the Ministry of Education of the SSR, the Minority Culture Group at the Ministry of Culture of the SSR (MK SSR) or the Minister without portfolio (László Dobos) who was appointed by the Government of the SSR to deal with nationality issues, the Council of the Government of the SSR for Nationalities (hereinafter referred to as the Council) was established. Minister’s Deputies were also appointed from among other nationalities (three Hungarians and two Ukrainians).\(^2\)

The establishment of the Government Council of the SSR for Nationalities was preceded by the creation of the Secretariat of the Committee on Nationalities of the Board of the Slovak National Council (SNC). This institution was established by the Resolution of the Board of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Slovak Republic (CC CPS) on September 11th and September 16th, 1968. SNC Chairman Ondrej Klokoč submitted a proposal for the establishment of the SNC Committee on Nationalities, its statute and establishment of the Secretariat to the Board of the SNC on September 23rd, 1968. After its creation, he elected a six-member Board. Since its establishment, the Secretariat was a subsidiary body of the SNC Board and the SNC Committee for Nationalities and it was incorporated into the SNC Office.\(^3\)

After the establishment of the Government of the SSR, the Secretariat was part of the Government Office of the SSR from January 1st 1969 as the Secretariat for Nationalities; having the status of a division. Firstly, it used the name the Office of the Government of the SSR - Secretariat for Nationalities. The Government Council of the SSR for Nationalities was established by resolution of the SSR Government as of April 8th, 1969. The Statute also determined the functions of its Secretariat. From 1971, the division worked as the Department for Nationalities of the SSR, and also served as the Secretariat of the Government Council of the SSR for Nationalities. From January 1st 1969 to June 30th, 1970, the Secretariat also served as the expert apparatus of the Minister without portfolio.\(^4\)

The Government Council of the SSR for Nationalities was an advisory body. Its task was to expertly review the materials and decisions submitted to the Government, to participate in the preparation of laws and measures of the Government concerning nationalities, and to submit initiatives for the management of the economic, social and cultural life of nationalities to the Government and its bodies. The preparation of the materials was to be carried out through standing working committees, temporary working teams and the expertise of research and scientific institutes.\(^5\)

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\(^3\) ŠUTAJ, Š. Národnostné práva..., p. 138.

\(^4\) ŠUTAJ, Š. Národnostné práva..., p. 138.

\(^5\) ŠUTAJ, Š. Národnostné práva..., p. 139.
Its first tasks included the creation of the "draft of SNC laws on the status of nationalities". The work plan of the Government of the SSR for the first half of 1969 predicted a review of the Act on Nationalities for April 1969. In May 1969, the principles of the Act on Territorial Division of Slovakia were to be prepared and in June 1969 "Draft of novelisation of amendments by SNC laws in the section of state administration, especially in the field of education, culture and association, ensuring the implementation of the rights of nationalities in the SSR".\(^6\)

Following on the Government’s work plan, a proposal for a monthly meeting of the Government Council of the SSR for Nationalities was prepared.\(^7\) As the Government Council of the SSR for Nationalities was only appointed in April 1969, the preparation of laws was postponed.\(^8\)

The Council was supposed to meet once a month, more frequently if necessary. During the first half of 1969, only one meeting was held on April 22nd, related to organizational issues. Subsequently, the Council met on July 10th 1969. At the Council’s meetings, the motions were not adopted by vote, but by agreement, and in the absence of an agreement, the proposal made to the Government by the Chairman of the Council was to include the opposing views. The Chairman could, if necessary, also invite other people to attend the meeting. At the first meeting, working teams were established to prepare the Acts on Nationality. At the end of May 1969, a joint meeting of the teams in Hrušov was held. In the second half of the year, the standing committees were to meet once a month, and in October-November 1969, the laws should have been prepared for the approval by the SNC. The first meetings of the Council indicated that they acted constructively towards their working orientation. However, their activity was later affected by self-censorship, correction of activities and Normalization.\(^9\)

Practical roles were gradually transferred from the Government Council of the SSR for Nationalities to the Council’s Secretariat.\(^10\)

The Normalization process\(^11\) had specific consequences for the Government Council of the SSR for Nationalities and its Secretariat. The expectations of the Council were not fulfilled. It was originally expected that the Council would comprehensively and systematically prepare measures to tackle minority issues, initiate solutions, legislative standards, and so on. However, the Council gradually became only a formal appendage of the Normalization power mechanism.\(^12\)

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10 ŠUTAJ, Š. Národnostné práva..., p. 139-140.
12 ŠUTAJ, Š. Národnostné práva..., p. 147.
The changes to the Council took place in October 1971. Following the previous normalization resolutions of the Communist Party bodies, on October 8th 1971, the Prime Minister Peter Colotka submitted proposals for the cancellation of the Government of the SSR Resolution of April 8th 1969, on the Status and Rules of the Government Council of the SSR for Nationalities and Resolution of the Government of the SSR No. 304 of September 30th 1970 on the composition of the Government Council of the SSR for Nationalities. The proposal was also discussed by the Board of the Communist Party of Slovakia (KSS) on August 31st 1971. On October 13th 1971, the Government of the SSR approved the proposal to appoint the Government Council of the SSR for Nationalities. The first meeting of the new Council took place on November 2nd 1971.

Previously, the Council had 18 members: nine of them of Slovak, six of them Hungarian and three of them of Ukrainian (Ruthenian) nationality. The new Council had 27 members: 13 of them of Slovak, ten of Hungarian and four of Ukrainian (Ruthenian) nationality. The notable change was that the new Council composition reflected new Normalization tendencies. People who were discredited in some way in the past, primarily for political reasons and in connection to the occupation by the Warsaw Pact troops, or by their activities in the years 1968-1969, were removed. The new Council was composed of party officials from the Central, District and Regional Committees of the KSS, party press representatives (Új Szó), officials from ministries whose activities were related to minority issues. Representatives of Csemadok and the Cultural Union of Ukrainian Workers (KZUP) did not become members of the Council. In terms of the Council's next activities, changes caused by the normalization process could be seen in that the Council's activity was limited to a formal bureaucratic mechanism for reviewing reports on the development of individual nationally mixed regions. Nationality policy was considered only once in the subsequent periods, and only through socio-economic indicators. The Council also completely stopped preparing legislative standards and other regulations to further develop the Act on Nationalities. "Later, the absence of legislative implementation of the constitutional act on the status of nationalities in the Czechoslovak federation was not perceived as a negative phenomenon."

As for the other institutions referred to in the introduction that were created after the declaration of the federation, "The SNC Committee for Nationalities was abolished in 1971 and the nationality issues were referred to the SNC Committee for National Committees, State Administration and Nationality Issues. However, it did not play a significant role in the nationality policy. During the two years of its existence, it did not deal with a single report on nationalities. The Section for Nationality Education was cancelled at the beginning of the 1970s and a department was set up instead. At the Ministry of Culture of the SSR, there was only one worker dedicated to nationality issues during the Normalization years. The Minister without Portfolio was dismissed from the office in June 1970 and the function itself was cancelled. Deputy Ministers from national minorities were appointed to issues that had nothing to do with nationality relations. (e.g. the Deputy Minister of Education was appointed to economic affairs)."
As part of their activities, the Council also frequently dealt with the issue of minority education and hence with the issue of universities. One of the earliest occasions when attention was paid to higher education was with the "focus" of the temporary working group of the Government Council of the SSR for Nationalities, tasked with the preparation of political principles of the Act on the Status of Nationalities in the SSR between May 19 – 22, 1969 in Hrušov. The result was an extensive proposal of the principles of the Act on the Representation of Nationalities, submitted in Hrušov on May 21st, 1969. The adoption of several acts, including the Education Act, the Act on Cultural Institutions, the Language Act, the Act on Representations of Nationalities and the Act on Administrative Division, were to be adopted.

The document prepared in Hrušov, entitled Political Directives and the Proposal for the Drafting of the Act on Minority Education, devoted some degree of attention to the issue of higher education. The document detailed how to make the study of minority nationalities in their mother tongue correspond to the societal and economic needs of the given minority and achieve the national average of highly qualified national minority specialists. In order to achieve this national average, the document advised that university education be provided for minority youth in:

1. a domestic university with the language of instruction of a national minority. This university provides for the education of specialists with university education in particular for:
   a. the health section; namely doctors at the medical faculty of a minority university,
   b. the section of agriculture; namely agricultural engineers at the agricultural faculty of a minority university,
   c. the section of teacher education and professors of pedagogical, philosophical and natural sciences faculty of a minority university.

2. Domestic Slovak and Czech universities, by admission of an appropriate number of students according to the national minority population percentage.

3. Foreign universities with the national minority language of instruction" This form of study was to be provided by the Minister of Education of the SSR, after an agreement with the respective countries, and the students of the national minority were obliged to return to the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic after the end of their studies and to be employed, mainly in the territory inhabited by minorities. For students from the Hungarian minority studying abroad, it was proposed they study Slovak or Czech language at the relevant foreign university and to take exams in it.

The document also dealt with the possible shortage of minority teachers at schools in the minority educational system. It proposed solving this problem by inviting teachers from the country concerned to a transitional period and, at the same time start with the training of teachers of Czechoslovak nationality who had a command of the language of a national minority in domestic or foreign schools. To overcome the high percentage of inexperience, the document emphasized the need to further allow teachers of minority schools to complete and extend their approbation in the form of external study at the Faculty of Education in Nitra and Prešov, and to further allow teachers of minority schools to complete or extend the approbation while they worked at domestic and foreign universities and higher schools.

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22 Politické smernice a návrh k vypracovaniu zákona národnostného školstva (Political guidelines and proposal for the drafting of a law on national education), Hrušov, 21. máj 1969. Personal archive of the Šutaj family.
23 Politické smernice a návrh k vypracovaniu zákona národnostného školstva (Political guidelines and proposal for the drafting of a law on national education), Hrušov, May 21, 1969. Personal archive of the Šutaj family.
24 Politické smernice a návrh k vypracovaniu zákona národnostného školstva (Political guidelines and proposal for the drafting of a law on national education), Hrušov, May 21, 1969. Personal archive of the Šutaj family.
The resulting *Political Guidelines for Elaboration of Principles of the Minorities Education Act* 25, adopted a day later on May 22nd 1969, the last day of the discussions, included, however, only a relatively brief statement on higher education: "higher education of national minorities in the mother tongue should correspond to social and economic needs of a given national minority, thereby achieving the national average of highly qualified national minority specialists." However, the Government Council of the SSR for Nationalities did not later address this document concerning education at their meetings.

At the start of their activity, the Council and their standing and temporary committees carried out advisory activities and solved nationality affairs, and were expected to be actively involved in the elaboration of further laws following the Act on Nationalities. However, this activity of the Council only lasted for a brief period and the activity of the Government Council of the SSR for Nationalities also changed due to the changed political situation. The Council practically withdrew from the preparation of legislative standards and mainly discussed the reports on the development of individual nationally mixed regions. This change was also reflected in the issue of higher education in the Council.

The Government Council of the SSR for Nationalities concentrated on several issues in their activity related to higher education in the 1970s. However, the work of the Council was limited to reviewing various types of reports and information on nationalities and issuing statements on these reports. The reviewed reports and information on higher education were mostly materials prepared by the Ministry of Education which the Council or the Council Secretariat prepared comments on, or materials prepared by the Council Secretariat for the Council's needs.

The reviewed reports and information concerned several issues. A large part of the reports and information addressed the status of Hungarian and Ukrainian nationality 27 in Slovakia. Within this type of reports, a great deal of attention was paid to the overview of statistical information at the educational level and the nationality structure of university students. In the field of higher education, the greatest attention was devoted to the issue of disproportion in the educational level of the population of Slovakia according to nationality. For example, according to census data from 1970, the relative number of people of Hungarian and Ukrainian nationality in the 0–24 age group was 11.1% and 0.8% respectively. According to the data in the *Survey of Statistical Information at the Educational Level and Nationality Structure of Students at Secondary Schools and Universities*, prepared by the Council’s Secretariat for the meeting of the Government Council of the SSR for Nationalities, even a seemingly minor deviation from the nationality structure of youth at universities would have a significant impact, for example: 0.1% would exclude 46 students from the possibility of further study. The share of students of Ukrainian nationality at universities was at that time 0.86%, which corresponded to the relative number of Ukrainian youths below 24 years of age. The share of Hungarian youth at universities was 4.33%, which was very negatively disproportionate to the number of Hungarian youths under 24. To reach a proportionate figure would have required increasing the number of university students from 2,002 students to

25 Political guidelines focused on several issues: I. Specifics, significance and principles of the system of minority schools. II. Establishing minority schools. III. Demands on teachers of minority schools IV. Administrative bodies of minority schools.

26 Politické smernice k vypracovaniu zásad zákona národnostného školstva (Political guidelines for the development of the principles of the law of national education), Hrušov, May 22, 1969. Personal archive of the Šutaj family.

27 On the issue of Ukrainian (Ruthenian) nationality, see e.g. KONEČNÝ, Stanislav. Historické kontexty formovania a vývoja rusínskeho etnika v Karpatoch. In DULEBA, Alexander (Ed.). *Rusíni na Slovensku súčasné postavenie a historické kontexty vývinu*. Bratislava – Prešov : ADIN s.r.o., 2012, p. 34-42.
5,000 students. The failure to reach this percentage led to further increases in disproportion.28 The problem persisted in the following periods. According to the data from the material of the Ministry of Education of the SSR The Proposal of Measures to Increase the Number of Students of Hungarian Nationality at Secondary Vocational Schools and Universities, particularly Technical Universities, prepared in 1978, in the school year 1977/1978, 2,756 university students of Hungarian nationality studied at higher education institutions in the CSSR. According to the aforementioned report, to stop the increase in disproportion of the educational level of the population of the SSR, the number of students of Hungarian nationality would have had to increase to 5,600 students; although this would not have compensated for the lag and differences in the educational level of the Hungarian population in the SSR.29 According to an overview of the nationality composition at universities in Slovakia in the school year 1970/1971, students of Hungarian nationality represented 3.8% (1,606 students) of all university students, in the school year 1975/1976, 4.2% (2,017 students), and in the school year 1980/1981, 4.6% (2,619 students). While the number of university students in the SSR increased by 42% compared to the school year 1970/1971, in the case of students of Hungarian nationality, the increase was 73.9%.30 Thus, in the 1970s we can see a gradual increase in the share of the total number of students studying at universities in the case of students of Hungarian nationality. However, this increase could not compensate for the differences in educational level of the Hungarian population in Slovakia from previous periods. In the early 1980s, the Government Council of the SSR for Nationalities positively accepted the approach of the Ministry of Education of the SSR and the Rectorate of Universities with regard to the development of the number and share of students of Hungarian and Ukrainian nationality; along with the fact that in the area inhabited by the Hungarian nationality, there was a gradual change in the composition and share of university students, mainly in favour of technical areas and natural sciences.31 Another area examined was the statistical information on the admission of students of Hungarian and Ukrainian nationality to secondary schools and universities. The reports highlighted mainly the problems with the number of admitted students of Hungarian nationality and the fact that although the number of Hungarian students applying for universities gradually increased, the number of students admitted remained stagnant. For example, in the school year 1973/1974, 825 applicants of Hungarian nationality applied to universities in Slovakia. Of the total of 371 Hungarians not admitted, the majority of them (143) were not admitted to the Comenius University (UK) in Bratislava (mainly to Medical, Law Faculties, Faculty of Arts and Faculties of Physical Education and Sport), at the Agricultural University in Nitra, 49 applicants out of 110 were admitted, at the University of Economics in Bratislava, out of 38 students 23 were not admitted, and at the Transport

28 AFI Šamorín, c. Rada vlády pre národnosti (Government Council for Nationalities, hereinafter referred to only as RVN). Prehľad štatistických informácií o vzdelanostnej úrovni a národnostnej štruktúre študujúcich na stredných a vysokých školách, 15. september 1975. (Overview of statistical information on the educational level and the national structure of students at secondary and higher education institutions, September, 15, 1975)
University in Žilina only 3 applicants were admitted out of 13. Thus, only 55.03% of Hungarian applicants were admitted to universities. A similar situation repeated itself in the school year 1974/1975, when 55.71% of Hungarian applicants were admitted to universities, while overall 61.8% of applicants in Slovakia were admitted. In the school year 1974/75, 928 Hungarian students applied to universities. Of the total 411 non-admitted Hungarian students, 174 were not admitted to the UK in Bratislava (mainly to the Medical, Law Faculties, Faculty of Arts and Faculties of Physical Education and Sport), at the Agricultural University in Nitra, out of 110 applicants 65 were not admitted, at the University of Economics in Bratislava 40 applicants out of 63 were not admitted, and at the Transport University in Žilina only 2 applicants out of 9 were admitted. The problem persisted, with the Government Council of the SSR for Nationalities, in their Statement on the Report of the Ministry of Education of the SSR of 6 October 1981 The Evaluation of the Fulfilment of the Tasks Arising from the Resolution of the Government of the SSR No. 230/73 and 290/77 stating that despite the increase in the number of newly admitted students of Hungarian nationality in individual school years, the number of newly admitted students at some faculties still does not meet the needs. The statement specifically mentioned the Faculty of Law of the CU in Bratislava, the Faculty of Medicine in Bratislava and Košice, the Agricultural University in Nitra and the University of Economics in Bratislava, where the share and the numbers of students of Hungarian nationality were still low. The attention of the Council was also focused on measures to increase the share of Hungarian students at technical schools. The low number of accepted students at these schools, especially in technical fields, was perceived as a significant obstacle to balancing the number of students of Hungarian nationality at secondary vocational schools and universities.

According to the data on the structure of students according to nationality and specialisation, the number of university students of Hungarian nationality in the school year 1970/1971 accounted for 3.7% of the total number of university students in Slovakia, i.e. 1,506 students. The internal structure of students of Hungarian nationality by individual faculties (or specialisations) was also perceived negatively in the report, as nearly half of Hungarian students of higher education attended universities, especially teaching courses. Out of 1,506 students of Hungarian nationality, 749 students studied at university courses (49.7%), while only 456 students (30.03%) attended technical studies. The situation was more positively perceived by the Ministry of Education of the SSR at the beginning of the 1980s, when in the

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32 AFI Šamorín, c. RVN 2. Prehľad štatistických informácií o vzdelanostnej úrovni a národnostnej štruktúre študujúcich na stredných a vysokých školách, 15. september 1975. (Overview of statistical information on the educational level and the national structure of students at secondary and higher education institutions, September, 15, 1975)
34 AFI Šamorín, c. RVN 3. Návrh opatrení na zvýšenie počtu študentov maďarskej národnosti na stredných odborných a vysokých školách, osobitne na vysokých školách technického smenu, 20. november 1978. (Draft of measures to increase the number of students of Hungarian nationality at secondary schools and universities, especially at technical colleges)
school year 1980/81, only 846 out of 2,619 students of Hungarian nationality (32.3%) studied at university courses, while 1,165 students (44.5%) studied technical courses.\textsuperscript{36} There was still the issue of a significant difference in the number of students who voluntarily dropped out of their studies in their first year. While the Slovak average was 14.16%, 22.3% of students of Hungarian nationality dropped out of their studies in this manner. The most frequent causes were study difficulties and fear of examinations due to insufficient knowledge of the Slovak language and, in some fields, due to insufficient knowledge of professional terminology from natural sciences and technical disciplines. However, the success of Hungarian students in subsequent years of study was equal to the success of Slovak nationality students.\textsuperscript{37} The regime ‘eliminated’ the possibility of separate colleges for minorities by allowing students of national minorities to study at foreign schools in the countries of their mother nations. According to the 1972 document Some Issues of the Status of Hungarian and Ukrainian/Ruthenian/ nationality in the Slovak Socialist Republic. The State of the Implementation of Party bodies’ resolutions by the State Administration Authorities, approximately 150 students studied at the universities and colleges of the Hungarian People's Republic at their own costs. All costs related to their study, travel and board had to be reimbursed by the students, there were no discounts, and many of those students came from socially disadvantaged families.\textsuperscript{38} According to data as of September 1st 1974, 288 students from the CSSR studied in the People's Republic of Hungary, 250 of whom were of Hungarian nationality. Only 34% of the total number of CSSR students in the People's Republic of Hungary received scholarship from the Ministry of Education of the SSR. Up to 191 students studied in the People's Republic of Hungary at their own expense. From the school year 1975/1976, this self-financed study was ended and the Ministry of Education of the SSR slightly increased the number of scholarship recipients.\textsuperscript{39} In the Council, special attention was paid to the education and training of teachers for the needs of minority schools, qualification of teachers of minority schools and their preparation for various types of schools of national minorities. Teacher training for Hungarian language schools was carried out at the Faculty of Education (PF) in Nitra and at the Faculty of Arts (FF) in Bratislava. The development of the Hungarian Department at the Faculty of Education in Nitra was characterized by the number of newly-admitted students in the first year of full-time study in individual periods; between 1959 – 1963, 171-212 newly-admitted students, between 1964-1971, 88-118 newly-admitted students, in the school year 1973/74 , 75 newly-

\textsuperscript{36} AFI Šamorín, c. RVN 4. Vyhodnotenie plnenia úloh vyplývajúcich z uznesení vlády SSR č. 230/73 a 290/77, 6. október 1981. (Evaluation of the fulfilment of the tasks resulting from the Government Resolution of SSR No. 230/73 a 290/77, October, 6, 1981)

\textsuperscript{37} AFI Šamorín, c. RVN 3. Kontrolná správa o realizácii uznesenia vlády SSR č. 209 z 9.7.1974 a komplexných pedagogicko-organizačných opatrení, prijatých na zintenzívnenie vyučovania slovenského jazyka v školách s vyučovacím jazykom maďarským, 23. november 1978 a Návrh opatrení na zvýšenie počtu študentov maďarskej národnosti na stredných odborných a vysokých školách, osobitne na vysokých školách technického smeru, 20. november 1978. (Control report on the implementation of the government resolution and complex pedagogical and organizational measures approved to intensify the teaching of Slovak language in Hungarian language schools, November 23 1978; Draft of measures to increase the number of students of Hungarian nationality at secondary schools and universities, especially at technical colleges)

\textsuperscript{38} AFI Šamorín, c. RVN 1. Niektoré otázky postavenia maďarskej a ukrajinské /rusínskej/ národnosti v Slovenskej socialistickej republike. /Stav v realizácii uznesení stranických orgánov orgánmi štátnej správy/, Bratislava 1972. (Some Questions of the Status of Hungarian and Ukrainian / Ruthenian / Nationality in the Slovak Socialist Republic.)

\textsuperscript{39} AFI Šamorín, c. RVN 2. Prehľad štatistických informácií o vzdelanostnej úrovni a národnostnej štruktúre študujúcich na stredných a vysokých školách, 15. september 1975. (Overview of statistical information on the educational level and the national structure of students at secondary and higher education institutions, September, 15, 1975)
admitted students, in the school year 1976/77, 41 newly-admitted students, and in the school year 1977/78, 21 newly-admitted students. While the total number of full-time students of the Hungarian Department of PF in Nitra was almost 700 in 1963/64, in the school year 1977/78 it was only 160. In parallel with the decrease in the number of newly-admitted applicants for full-time study, the number of students studying externally and the number of approbations (from an original 19 to three) also decreased.

Teacher training for schools with Ukrainian language of instruction was carried out at the Faculty of Education and the Faculty of Arts at the University of Pavol Jozef Šafárik (UPJŠ). The decrease in the number of students also affected the Ukrainian department of the PF in Prešov, but it was not so strong. Other faculties – including Slovak departments in Nitra and Prešov – remained at their original level, or their numbers of students increased slightly. One of the changes related to the training of teachers was a change of language of instruction in the preparation of teachers for the 5th – 12th grade. At minority departments, all subjects’ approbations except Hungarian or Ukrainian language were taught in Slovak.

There was a long-standing problem of qualification of teachers of minority schools. Also, the Ministry of Education of the SSR stated in 1977 that there was a shortage of qualified teachers of Slovak Language, Civic Education, Music, Art and Physical Education at primary and secondary schools with a Hungarian language of instruction. It also stated that at secondary grammar schools with Hungarian language of instruction, out of 82 mathematics teachers with approbation mathematics - physics, mathematics - descriptive geometry, mathematics, and other combinations, 39% were unqualified.40 The qualification of Slovak language teachers was unfavourable, especially in the East Slovak region, where only 64.4% of teachers of Slovak language at nine-year elementary schools and 82% of teachers at secondary grammar schools were qualified.41

According to the plan of newly-admitted students in the first year of universities in the school year 1978/79, all faculties of education in the SSR were to admit 1,115 applicants for full-time study. Of this, a total of 260 students, including 35 first-year students at the Hungarian Department (of which 20 for Teaching for the First Grade, 10 for combination Mathematics - Physics and 5 for combination Russian Language – Civic Education) were at the Faculty of Education in Nitra. The Faculty of Education in Prešov had a plan to admit 315 students, of which 15 were admitted to the Ukrainian Department (10 for Teaching for the First Grade and 5 students for the combination Ukrainian Language - Civic Education).

At the Faculty of Arts of the UK in Bratislava and at the Faculty of Arts in Prešov, a total of 195 students could be admitted to Teaching courses, of which 20 were admitted to Hungarian language schools (10 for combination Hungarian - Slovak, 5 for combination Hungarian - History and 5 for combination Hungarian - German) and 5 students for combination Ukrainian language - Slovak language. The planned numbers of teacher for the needs of minority schools and universities were similarly low.


41 AFI Šamorín, c. RVN 3. Kontrolná správa o realizácii uzniesenia vlády SSR č. 209 z 9.7.1974 a komplexných pedagogicko-organizačných opatrení, prijatých na zintenzívnenie vyučovania slovenského jazyka v školách s vyučovacím jazykom maďarškým, 23. november 1978. (Control report on the implementation of the government resolution and complex pedagogical and organizational measures approved to intensify the teaching of Slovak language in Hungarian language schools, November 23 1978)
Other faculties of universities in the SSR, which also established teaching courses, such as the Faculty of Natural Sciences of the CU, planned to admit 145 students, the Faculty of Natural Sciences of UPJS in Košice planned 100 newly admitted students, and the Faculty of Physical Education and Sport of the CU in Bratislava planned 130 students. However, they did not specifically determine the planned numbers for the preparation of teachers of minority schools. It was therefore not possible to find out in what form and in which faculty the Education Department provided the education of qualified teachers for primary and secondary schools with Hungarian and Ukrainian language of instruction, in study subjects - predominantly natural sciences - such as Chemistry, Biology, Geography, Art, Physical Education. Of the total planned number of 1,705 newly-admitted full-time students of teaching courses in all of the SSR, in the school year 1978/79, only 55 students (3.22%) were planned for Hungarian language schools and 22 students for Ukrainian language schools (1.17%).42

In conclusion, we can state that the content of individual reports discussed at the Council of the Government of the SSR for Nationalities was largely repeated, as were the individual justifications of the problems described in the minority education system or the tasks for individual institutions (the Government, ministries, the Government Council for Nationalities, etc.) dedicated to addressing these issues. The bureaucratic-administrative nature, the non-conceptual origins and the proposed solution did not tackle the essence of the problem; mostly being masked by Marxist-Leninist terminology and Marxist-Leninist solutions to the minority issue. The results of the analyses were not reflected in new legislative proposals and mostly had a formal, administrative nature. Thus, we can see the changes caused by the Normalization process in the activities of the Government Council of the SSR for Nationalities in the area of minority higher education, but also in the general activities of the Council. While at the beginning of its existence, the Council had an ambition to participate in the preparation of legislative standards to develop the Act on Nationalities, to influence the tackling of minority issues and to provide the Government and its bodies with proposals to manage economic, social and cultural life of minorities, in the period of Normalization the Council’s activities were limited to a formal, bureaucratic mechanism for reviewing reports on the development of individual nationally mixed regions. At the same time, the Council completely withdrew from the preparation of legislative standards and further regulations to develop the Act on Nationalities.


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