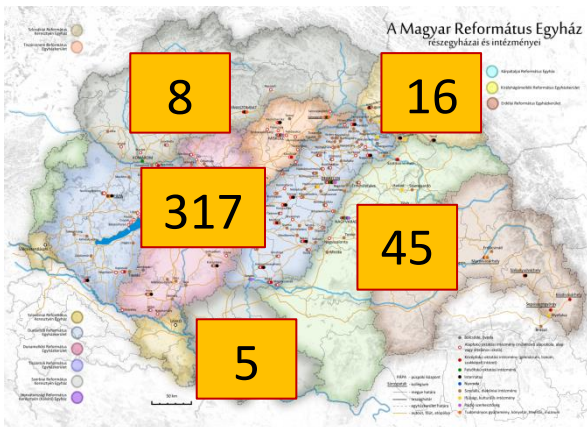


For the Reformed Churches and the Hungarian minorities living in Slovakia, Ukraine, Romania, Serbia, and Croatia, the church schools are crucial for preserving their national and spiritual identities. These schools are functioning with enormous difficulties. The schools in Ukraine and Serbia are not supported by the state at all, and the schools in Slovakia have only a low level of state support. These institutions are trying to be integrated into the Hungarian Reformed school system, helping them from the funds raised by the students of the church schools.

THE HUNGARIAN CHRISTIAN SCHOOL SYSTEM AND ITS IMPACT ON CHURCH AND SOCIETY

5. The schools belonging to the Hungarian reformed churches in the Carpathian Region



Are you interested in school cooperation with Hungarian schools belonging to the Reformed Churches?

Please contact:

Romania:

Sándor Gáll (gallsandor@gmail.com)

or

Szűcs Éva (kre.tanugy@gmail.com)

Ukraine:

Tóth László (tothlaslo@gmail.com)

Slovakia:

Édes Enikő (edes.eniko@gmail.com)

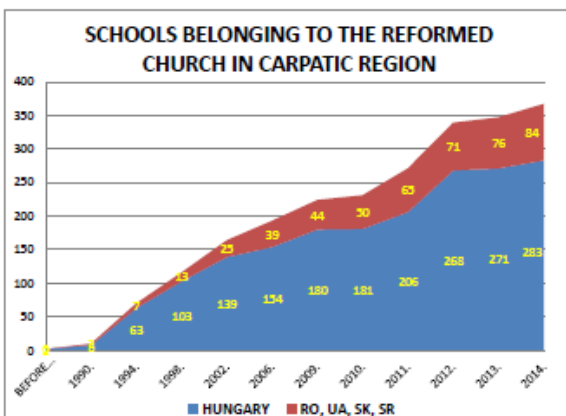
Serbia:

Csányi Erzsébet (csanydeta@stcable.net)

Hungary:

the schools or

Ábrám Tibor (abram.tibor@gmail.com)



Tibor Ábrám

headmaster, Lévy József High School and Boarding Home of the Reformed Church in Hungary

abram.tibor@gmail.com

1. The beginnings of the Hungarian protestant schooling, the beginning of the Hungarian public education

The idea of the Reformation was spread very quickly in Hungary. The first reformers were ready and equipped, first of all, to share the hope of the gospel with the people, and second, they felt the calling to do this. The reformation spread very quickly and powerfully throughout Hungary in two waves. The first one was the “Lutheran wave” and the second one was the more powerful “Calvinist” one.

2. The impact of the protestant schooling on the church and society in early time

Because the protestant churches were built on the foundation of 5 SOLAs (*sola Scriptura, sola fide, sola gratia, solus Christus, soli Deo gloria*), the protestant churches felt responsible to put the Bible into the hands of the people. Following the great commandment (Math 28:19-20) „Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.” the early reformers were motivated to start public schools, which would educate and teach the children. The Protestant churches were not only the promoters of the national language but also significantly contributed to the national cultural and scientific.

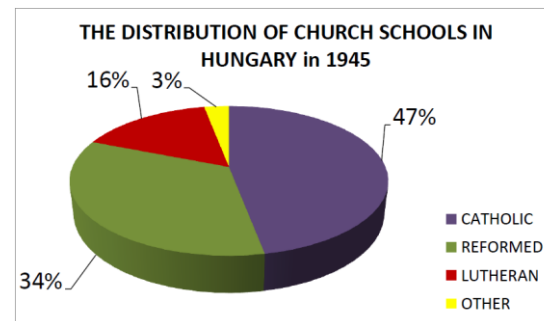
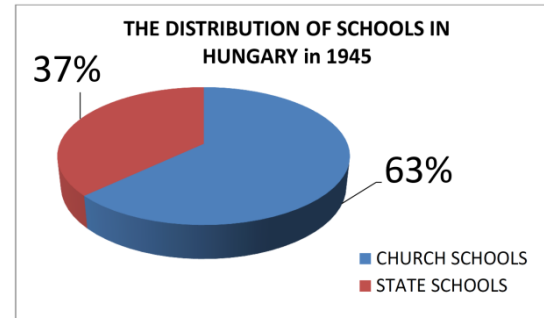
In the following centuries, in almost every village where the Reformed Church was present, the congregation began a church primary school. In a relatively short time period (1530 – 1600) a significant number of high schools, and so called “college”-s were also established. The “Reformed College” as an educational institution included a high school plus an upper level educational division (theological training, law, or teacher training). The most famous are in Debrecen, Sárospatak, Pápa, and Kolozsvár.

The school system belonging to the churches developed through the centuries, and became the majority school system in Hungary (2/3 of all schools were/are church schools). The number of the schools belonging to the Reformed Church in

Hungary at the beginning of the 20th century reached 1841.

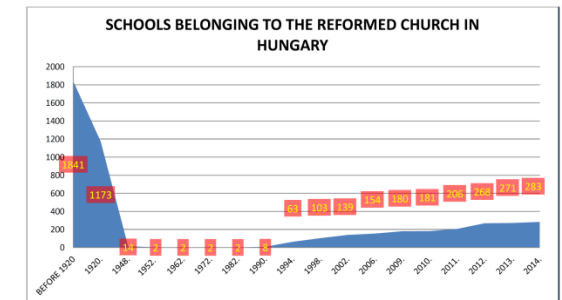
3. The consequences of the 2nd World War on the Christian school system in Hungary

After the lost 2nd World War in 1945 the communist era began in Hungary. The Communist Party was hostile towards both churches and church schools, looking to stop religious activity. For the church schools, this occurred in 1948, when the church schools were forced to become nationalized. The process of forced nationalization was completed in 1952 when the remaining few church schools were closed. The Roman Catholic Church in Hungary was allowed to own only 8 high schools, the Reformed Church in Hungary was allowed to keep only a single high school, and for the Lutheran Church in Hungary, no school was allowed. Not only were the church schools and buildings nationalized but a big part of the church properties and even private properties.



4. The 1990s - The reopening of the church schools in Hungary – new opportunity and a new challenge to rebuild the church school education in Hungary

The political changes in 1989/1990 when communism fell and Hungary regained her independence opened the way for the restitution of former church properties and school buildings to the former owners. New legislation made possible for the churches to reopen their former schools, and to open new church schools.



In 1995 the Educational law of the Reformed Church was accepted by the Synod, which became a cornerstone in the governance of the reformed church schools. This Educational Law placed a significant responsibility on the church districts and presbyteries. In meantime the Reformed Pedagogical Institute was started to give pedagogical and professional support to the schools and teachers. During the different governments the church schools were treated in different ways.

