

## 17 years old Szekler girl humiliated in a Cluj-Napoca/Kolozsvár hospital by doctor for not speaking well the Romanian language

A 17 years old Hungarian girl, from Țălișoara/Olasztelek, Covasna County participated at the XXth ODFIE Poem and Song Contest, organized at Cluj-Napoca/Kolozsvár. After the contest, she was run over by a bus, her toes being crushed during the accident. She was taken to the Cluj-Napoca/Kolozsvár Children's Hospital emergency room, where she was being humiliated by the doctor in charge, after it turned out that she does not speak well the Romanian language.

She and her parents, who arrived to Cluj-Napoca/Kolozsvár shortly after the accident were shockingly mistreated by the doctor in charge and the staff of the hospital. The emergency doctor, **Ioan Dobrescu**, confronted the girl about the fact that she did not speak Romanian as her primary language. According to the witnesses present at the consultation, he told her that if she lives in Romania, she should be speaking Romanian.



A 17 years old Hungarian girl was humiliated in the Cluj-Napoca Children's Hospital for not speaking good Romanian

In spite of the fact that the 17 years old was an emergency patient, the staff bringing her tea asked whether he had a mug that she brought along. When it turned out that she had no mug with her, the nurse asked her if she „*should pour the tea into her hands*” – reflecting a rather alarming state of hospitals in Romania as well as an alarming attitude of hospital staff in the Cluj Children's Hospital.

In Romania, members of minority groups have the right to be able to speak in their mother tongue when having a medical problem. The girl in question had a terrible medical emergency, she was run over a bus, she had three toes broken in the process. But instead of getting the care she needed, she was confronted about her language skills and humiliated both by the doctor and the staff of the hospital.

### **Double standard: the Szekler Tourism Association could not be registered**

The Romanian authorities refused to register the Szekler Tourism Association, in spite of the fact that similar tourism associations, like the one promoting the region of Bukovina already operate for some time.

In 2015 the Pro Turismo Terrae Sicularum Association was formed, aiming to present Szeklerland as an attractive tourist destination, the development of Szekler tourism, and the promotion of it, thus enhancing the compatibility of tourist operators in the region of Szeklerland. 14 organisations founded the association, all present in the tourism industry for years, from three counties: Harghita, Covasna and Mureş.

The declared aim of the association was to carve out a regional tourism concept that would result in a strong brand, bringing many tourists to the lovely sites of Szeklerland. Previously tourism operators confronted problems when turning out that there was no unity in the tourism concept of various counties of the region, operators were calling for a strong regional brand to promote sustainable tourism in the area. Similar associations are performing very similar tasks for quite some time, in other Romanian regions, for example the tourism associations of Oltenia, Țara Moților, and Bucovina.



The request for registration was declined first due to the name of the Association, the

Court asked for the change of the name of „Szeklerland”, claiming that the name is „anti-Constitutional”. As a result, the initiators changed the name of the association to „Szekler tourism destinations”, but their request was declined the second time around as well, suataining the decision with the explanation that in Romania there are no regions as administrative units, but counties, cities and villages.

The decision is hard to comprehend especially because similar associations have been around, fulfilling their goals with great success. And they were also named after historical regions, that do not exist today as administrative units in Romania. Bucovinatourism.ro, affilated with Suceava County Chamber of Commerce, for example exists since 2001. the rejected registration of a similar association promoting the tourism of Szeklerland is therefore a clear double standard towards the 600.000 Hungarian Szeklers living in Romania