DEBRECEN SUMMER SCHOOL

ENDANGERED LANGUAGES IN EUROPE AND ELSEWHERE
An International Conference
on the Past, Present and Future of
Minority Languages
1-3 August, 2016
Debrecen, Hungary

Description of the Conference

Language is an everyday commodity for all of us. Everyone uses at least one language for daily communication, and the number of people speaking two or more languages is steadily growing. Nevertheless, there are several languages whose long-term survival is in danger because of political, demographical, cultural or other reasons. There are different kinds of options, endeavours, political recommendations and even legal steps available but the overall situation is rather complicated. As a promoter of Hungarian, a state language in Hungary and a minority language in some other countries, Debrecen Summer School has been aware of the difficulties such languages have experienced ever since its foundation in 1927.

This is why we are happy to invite scholarly papers which discuss the problems and challenges faced by any non-state or minority language in the world. The conference is designed to bring together, primarily but not exclusively, young scholars whose main professional aim is to investigate and research the current state and future perspectives of the so-called endangered languages in Europe or in any other part of the world.

Traditional lectures and presentations will be supplemented with workshops and roundtable discussions. The language of the conference will be English but, if there are at least 3 papers related to the same language (Irish, Welsh, Occitan, Basque, Finnish, Hungarian, etc.), we will be happy to organize a separate session in that language.

Participants of the conference will have the opportunity to experience and take part in some traditional Hungarian cultural events as well as to learn about the past and present of Debrecen, the ‘Calvinist Rome’ and two-time capital of Hungary.

Major Topics

Papers are expected to include but not to be limited to the following topics:
—Language and History
—Definitions and Interpretations of Non-state/Minority Languages
—State vs. Non-state Languages
—Minority Languages in Europe
—Hungarian as a Minority Language
—Minority Languages in North America
—Minority Languages in South America
—Minority Languages in Africa
—Minority Languages in Australia
—Social Aspects of Languages in Danger
—The Role and Possibilities of Education in the Preservation of Languages
—Cultural Aspects of Languages in Danger
—EU Policies to Save or Promote Minority Languages
—Methods of Recording Samples of Endangered Languages
—Research Projects on Endangered Languages

Contact: Debrecen Nyári Egyetem
H-4010 Debrecen, Pf. 35.
Telephone: +36 52 532 594, Fax: +36 52 532 595
E-mail: debrecen@nyariegyetem.hu, Web: www.nyariegyetem.hu