

## TEACHER TRAINING SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN HUNGARY BETWEEN 1868-1880

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*The history of teacher training secondary schools for junior classes in Hungary goes back to 1828, when the first teachers training collage was opened in Eger. But the expansion of the school type starts after 1868, when the 38<sup>th</sup> Act of Education ordered to establish 20 state teacher training secondary schools. The Act gives availability for churches and individuals to establish and maintain schools. Our paper introduces the expansion of this type of school between 1868 and 1880, which was the most productive period in the history of teacher training secondary schools.*

**Keywords:** teacher training secondary schools, topography, database

The aim of our research was to define the number and the localization of the teacher training secondary schools for junior classes in Hungary between 1828 and 1945. The scratch of our work was the recognition, that there is not a single work, which reports the exact number of these schools, or their regional position. Although several works were published about the history of secondary teacher training schools, these are about the content of the training, and give no pivot about the spread of the schools.

Many outstanding works were published, as Szakál (1934:21), Szelényi (1917) or Németh (1990). Kiss published (1929; 1930) the statistical figures of the teachers' training schools, and informs about the number of the schools and their maintainers, but the data are not correct. His sources were the Statistical Annuals, and the Reports of the Minister, which were based on the yearly report of the schools. Many schools failed to send a report to the Ministry, so they were not included in the Report of the Minister or the statistical annuals.

As we have studied the secondary sources, we have found that they are full of inexact data. The early works contained inconsistent items, which the later works took over. The historians used the source which they reckoned to be trustworthy. Thus could happen, that we had contradicted data about the establishment of a school or about the number of the schools in a certain year. For example, Schwarcz (1867) reports about the teachers training schools in Hungary in 1867, and refers about 38 schools. Kiss (1929:119) informs about 43 schools for the same year.

We decided to make an attempt to make the contradictions clear, and find out the exact number of the schools. Now we would like to introduce the expansion of teacher training between 1868 and 1880.

## Preliminaries

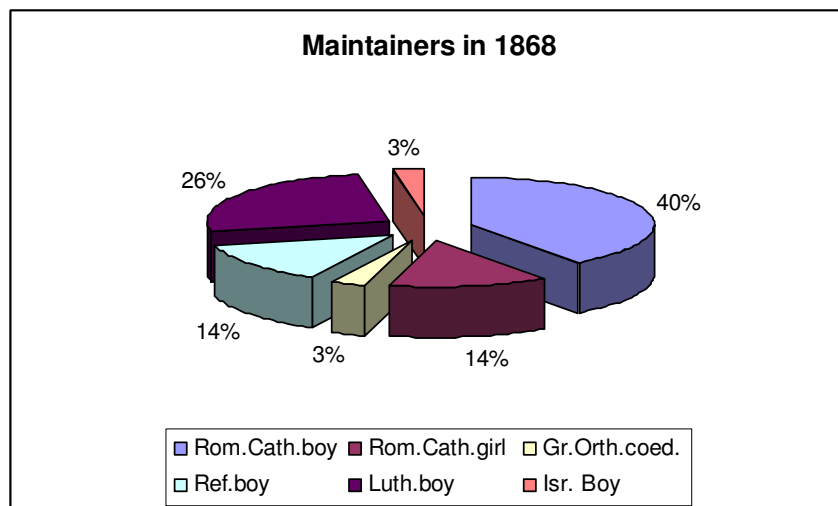
In 1849 there were 17 schools in Hungary, 16 for boys. At that time there were not enough teacher training schools in the country, and the existing schools had not enough pupils. The lack of teachers would be the ground for the 38<sup>th</sup> Act 1868 about the teachers training, which tried to correct the lag of the last half century.

In 1868 there were 35 schools in Hungary, 5 of them for girls. Establishing girl schools was a very important step, because these schools ensured the educations of girls, came from lower society.

In 1868 there were not only state teacher training secondary schools in Hungary. Originally there were 5 Royal Catholic Schools for boys between 1840 and 1856 but they were closed in the Thun era<sup>1</sup>.

The Catholic Church was the main maintainer, as it opened 11 schools between 1849 and 1868.

1. Figure. The expansion of teacher training secondary schools between 1868 and 1880



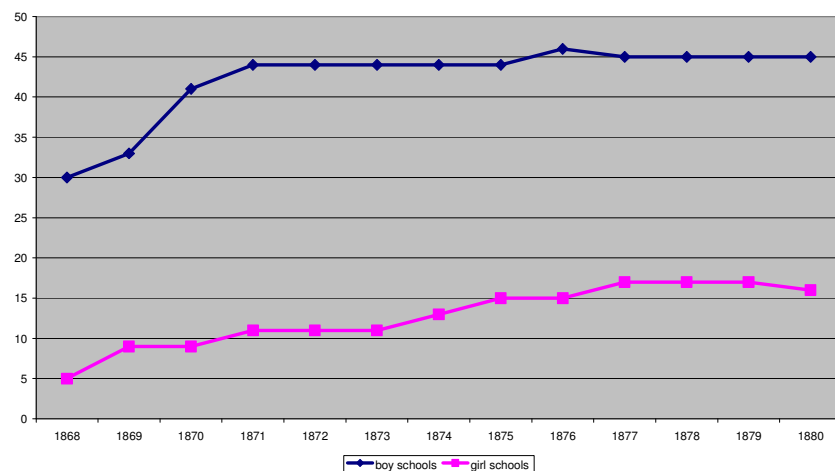
The 38<sup>th</sup> Act declared to establish 20 state schools. Baron Joseph Eötvös the Minister of Religion and Education visited all the possible places wherever a school could have been built to gain the inhabitants encouragement for the business. The Minister settled that the towns had to conduce to the building operations by ensuring the building site, the manpower and a temporary building for the school, until the new building got ready. In most of the towns it was a rented house which was inconvenient for being a school. The rooms were too little, hell-hole, there were no boarding schools.

There was a real race between the towns to win the right of opening a state school. Due to the 38<sup>th</sup> Act in the next twelve years 26 schools were opened, so we could find 61 in 1880. The number of the boy schools was grown from 30 to 45, and the girl schools from 5 to 16.

<sup>1</sup> Leo Thun was the Minister of Education and Religion in Austria between 1849-1860

## 2. Figure. Teacher's training secondary schools

Teacher Training Secondary Schools in Hungary Between 1868 and 1880



The state established 16 boy and 5 girl schools in these years, thus it became important maintainer with 21 schools, while the Catholic Church maintained 20, whereof 9 were for girls. There were state boy schools in 1880 at Arad, Baja, Budapest, Csáktornya, Csurgó, Déva, Igló, Kiskunfélegyháza, Kolozsvár, Léva, Losonc, Máramarossziget, Modor, Székelykeresztúr, Zilah, Znióváralja, and girl schools at Győr, Pozsony, Szabadka, and Budapest (2 schools).

As the 38<sup>th</sup> Act gave permission for the Churches and for private individuals to establish and maintain teachers training schools, in this period we could find two private teacher training schools in Hungary. Both were opened in 1877, and were girl schools. The Keméndy school was situated at Szeged and closed in 1878. The Fábry School was at Rimaszombat, and closed in 1881. No associational or private school was long living. Usually they struggled with money worries, and closed in a year or so.

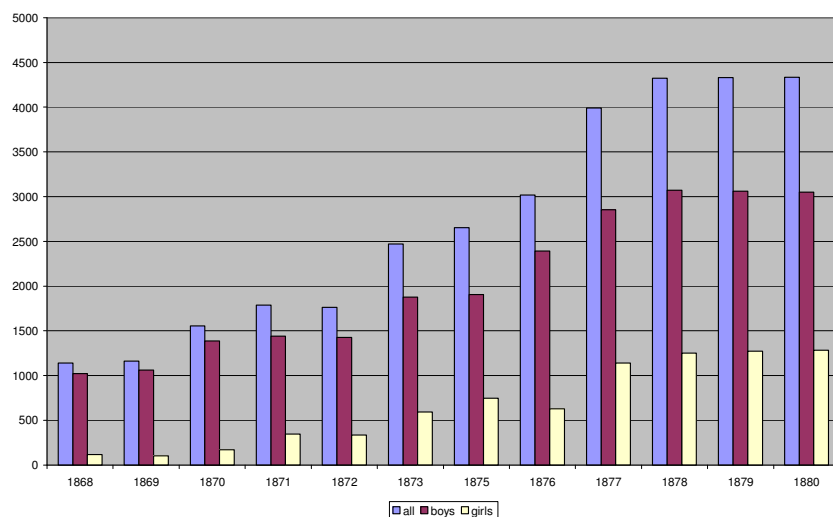
We can find a co-educated school, maintained by the Greek Orthodox Church in Zombor. Co-education began in 1871 and extinguished later, in 1910. Co-education was not a usual and accepted solution, but the Greek Orthodox Church had no choice to maintain its school, due to the low number of pupils. In the history of teacher training we found three more co-educated schools (Szászrégen, Munkács, Komárom). All of them were working during the II. World War.

Not only the number of the schools was rising in this period. The number of the pupils were rising dynamically as well. In twelve years it became fourfold. The number of the boys rose from 1022 to 3050 between 1868 and 1880, whilst the number of the girls rose from 119 to 1283.

In 1880 we found in the state boy schools 1242 pupils, it is 40,7 % of the total. There were 785 pupils in the state girl schools, it makes the 61,1 % of the total.

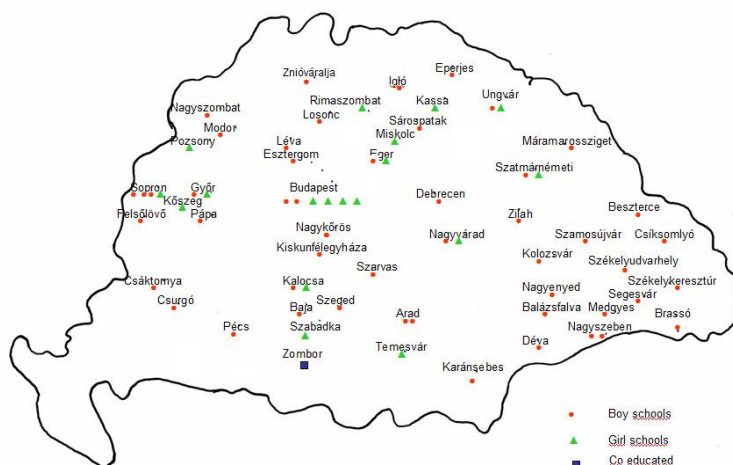
The Roman Catholic boy schools had 785 students, it is 25,7 of the total, and the girl schools had 443 student, which takes 33,4 % of the total.

3. Figure. Number of the Students Between 1868 and 1880



The spread of the schools became better after 1868, but there weren't enough girl schools in Transylvania and in the South-western parts. The girl schools were situated mainly in Budapest, in the Northern parts and in the central region. The reason of this localization is that these were mainly maintained by the Catholic Church, so they were established in the catholic regions. The mainly protestant, evangelical and unitarian territories as Transylvania and the Eastern regions did not have a share in.

4. Figure. Schools



We can find an interesting opposition in the localization of state boy and girl schools. While the state wished to bestow the boy schools in the peripheries of the country, they established the girl schools in big towns.

In the selection of the localization of boy schools it was an important point to put them in little settlements which conditions did not differ from those, in which the pupils would hold on. The other reason of putting these schools to the peripheries was, that the gentilities lived there, so the teacher training could serve the state political interests, with spreading the

Hungarian language. In spite of the ministers efforts, in 1879 there were 12 schools, where the language of teaching was not Hungarian.

Although the 38<sup>th</sup> Act orders teaching the Hungarian language in those schools, where the language of teaching was not Hungarian, there was no retribution for failing it. The 18<sup>th</sup> Act 1879 wants to change the practice of teaching Hungarian with imposing the huge number of Hungarian lessons for these schools.

As we can see it in the table below, teaching in another language was in practice in the Greek Orthodox and Lutheran schools. The Lutheran Church had to ensure the teachers for the German speaking territories, so in most of their schools the language of teaching was German, sometimes German and Hungarian.

The Greek Orthodox Schools used the language of the majority, so the language of teaching was variable.

*1. Table.*

| settlement     | maintainer             | sex         | Year of establishnig | Teaching language |
|----------------|------------------------|-------------|----------------------|-------------------|
| Balázsfalva    | Greek Catholic Church  | boy         | 1865                 | Romanian          |
| Beszterce      | Lutheran Church        | boy         | 1847                 | German            |
| Besztercebánya | Roman Catholic Church  | boy         | 1856                 | Hunagrian-German  |
| Brassó         | Lutheran Church        | boy         | 1847                 | German            |
| Felsőlövő      | Lutheran Church        | boy         | 1845                 | German            |
| Karánsebes     | Greek Orthodox Church  | boy         | 1876                 | Romanian          |
| Nagyőröcze     | Lutheran Church        | boy         | 1847                 | Slovak            |
| Nagyszeben     | Lutheran Church        | boy         | 1847                 | German            |
| Nagyszeben     | Greek Orthodox Church  | boy         | 1870                 | Romanian          |
| Sopron         | Maintained by the town | boy         | 1860                 | German            |
| Szamosújvár    | Greek Catholic Church  | boy         | 1869                 | Romanian          |
| Zombor         | Greek Orthodox Church  | co-educated | 1818                 | Serbian-German    |

## Summary

In the short period after the 38<sup>th</sup> Act 1868 the number of the teacher training secondary schools for junior classes rose from 35 to 61, whilst the number of the pupils became fourfold.

The girl schools appeared in the beginning of the 1840's, but before the Act, there were only 5 in the country. Between 1868 and 1880 eleven new girl schools were opened. The maintainer of the girl schools was the state, and the Roman Chatolic Church. Other maintainers were just boy schools, thus could happen, that big parts of the country had no teacher training schools for girls, just in Transylvania, and in the Southern parts. We have to wait until 1910 to find a new maintainer establishing a girl school.

The localization of the state boy schools generated a serious problem after the I. World War.

As Eötvös decided, most of the state boy schools were in Transylvania, the Northern parts, and the Southern parts. It was 54% percent of the whole state primary school teacher training. After the Trianon peace treaty Hungary

lost 72 % of its territory. The number of the schools at the annexed parts was huge, 32 were in Romania, 14 in Czechoslovakia, 4 in Serbia, and one in Austria. It was the 52 % of the total.

Before the territorial loss Hungary had 32 teacher training schools for boys of which just 8 remained. There was no state boy school in the eastern parts, and there were not any Roman Catholic schools as well. It was not possible to recover the damage till 1938.

2. Table. In 1880 we found the schools quoted below in Hungary

| Settlement       | Maintainer              | Sex  | Year of establishing |
|------------------|-------------------------|------|----------------------|
| Arad             | State                   | boy  | 1873                 |
| Baja             | State                   | boy  | 1870                 |
| Budapest I.      | State                   | boy  | 1869                 |
| Budapest II.     | State                   | girl | 1869                 |
| Budapest VI.     | State                   | girl | 1869                 |
| Csáktornya       | State                   | boy  | 1879                 |
| Csurgó           | State                   | boy  | 1869                 |
| Déva             | State                   | boy  | 1870                 |
| Győr             | State                   | girl | 1875                 |
| Igló             | State                   | boy  | 1871                 |
| Kiskunfélegyháza | State                   | boy  | 1876                 |
| Kolozsvár        | State                   | boy  | 1871                 |
| Léva             | State                   | boy  | 1870                 |
| Losonc           | State                   | boy  | 1869                 |
| Máramarossziget  | State                   | boy  | 1870                 |
| Modor            | State                   | boy  | 1870                 |
| Pozsony          | State                   | girl | 1871                 |
| Szabadka         | State                   | girl | 1871                 |
| Székelykeresztúr | State                   | boy  | 1870                 |
| Zilah            | State                   | boy  | 1870                 |
| Znióváralja      | State                   | boy  | 1870                 |
| Budapest IV.     | Association             | girl | 1869                 |
| Beszterce        | Lutheran Church         | boy  | 1847                 |
| Brassó           | Lutheran Church         | boy  | 1847                 |
| Eperjes          | Lutheran Church         | boy  | 1873                 |
| Felsőlövő        | Lutheran Church         | boy  | 1845                 |
| Medgyes          | Lutheran Church         | boy  | 1856                 |
| Segesvár         | Lutheran Church         | boy  | 1847                 |
| Sopron           | Lutheran Church         | boy  | 1858                 |
| Szarvas          | Lutheran Church         | boy  | 1861                 |
| Balázsfalva      | Greek Chatolical Church | boy  | 1865                 |
| Szamosújvár      | Greek Chatolical Church | boy  | 1869                 |
| Ungvár           | Greek Chatolical Church | boy  | 1831                 |
| Karánsebes       | Greek Orthodox Church   | boy  | 1876                 |
| Nagyszeben       | Greek Orthodox Church   | boy  | 1870                 |
| Zombor           | Greek Orthodox Church   | boy  | 1816                 |
| Budapest VIII.   | Jewish Church           | boy  | 1859                 |
| Budapest V.      | Roman Catholic Church   | boy  | 1840                 |
| Rimaszombat      | Private                 | girl | 1877                 |
| Debrecen         | Reformed Church         | boy  | 1855                 |
| Nagyenyed        | Reformed Church         | boy  | 1853                 |
| Nagykőrös        | Reformed Church         | boy  | 1839                 |
| Pápa             | Reformed Church         | boy  | 1867                 |
| Sárospatak       | Reformed Church         | boy  | 1857                 |
| Budapest IV.     | Roman Catholic Church   | girl | 1855                 |
| Csíksomlyó       | Roman Catholic Church   | boy  | 1859                 |
| Eger             | Roman Catholic Church   | boy  | 1828                 |
| Eger             | Roman Catholic Church   | girl | 1874                 |

|               |                       |      |      |
|---------------|-----------------------|------|------|
| Esztergom     | Roman Catholic Church | boy  | 1842 |
| Győr          | Roman Catholic Church | boy  | 1847 |
| Kalocsa       | Roman Catholic Church | boy  | 1856 |
| Kalocsa       | Roman Catholic Church | girl | 1869 |
| Kassa         | Roman Catholic Church | girl | 1860 |
| Kőszeg        | Roman Catholic Church | girl | 1874 |
| Nagyszombat   | Roman Catholic Church | boy  | 1857 |
| Nagyvárad     | Roman Catholic Church | boy  | 1856 |
| Nagyvárad     | Roman Catholic Church | girl | 1859 |
| Pécs          | Roman Catholic Church | boy  | 1831 |
| Sopron        | Roman Catholic Church | boy  | 1865 |
| Sopron        | Roman Catholic Church | girl | 1864 |
| Szatmárnémeti | Roman Catholic Church | boy  | 1847 |
| Szatmárnémeti | Roman Catholic Church | girl | 1875 |
| Szeged        | Roman Catholic Church | boy  | 1844 |
| Temesvár      | Roman Catholic Church | girl | 1879 |

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