

## **Federation of Hungarian Associations in Latin America.**

The Federation of Hungarian Associations in Latin America, (known as LAMOSZSZ according to its initials in Hungarian – Latin-Amerikai Magyar Országos Szervezetek Szövetsége) is the official representative of all the Hungarian organizations functioning in Latin America. Founded in 2004, its members are the central councils that coordinate the organizations functioning in each country. (Argentina, Brasil, Chile, Paraguay, Uruguay and Venezuela).

According to its statutes, LAMOSZSZ represents the interests of the Hungarian communities in Latin America towards the Hungarian Government as well as at other international institutions. Its objective is to bring together the different communities and coordinate their efforts in the interest of preserving, cultivating and publicizing the culture and language of Hungary. The federation is non-governmental, and does not participate in party politics. It has to inform its members regularly of important matters, events and developments that affect Hungarians, and outside of its borders, and especially towards Hungary, it has to inform about the achievements, problems and demands of the Hungarian communities of Latin America. In addition the association helps the different organizations functioning in its member states in the organization of cultural and philanthropical events.

For our biggest events we have been receiving financial help from the Hungarian government. Such are for example the yearly “Visiting Budapest” festival , where this year the young dancers from our folklore groups have been able to participate for the third time, the biyearly Latin-american Hungarian Folkdance Festival, visits from folkdance groups from Hungary, the mainly classical music productions from the Ars Hungarica from Argentina, to name just a few.

Since there has been no new Hungarian immigration to Latin-America at the latest since 1956, the members of our communities belong in many cases to the fifth and even sixth generations. For this reason, one of our most important goals is the teaching of the Hungarian language. This requires specially prepared teachers from Hungary, corresponding teaching materials, the continuous further training of our own teachers – partially using our own resources, but counting again on the help of the government.

As far as our contacts with the government, since 2006 LAMOSZSZ has been participating as observer at the yearly meeting of the Kárpát Medencei Képviselek Forum. In 2010 the Hungarian so-called “western diaspora” has not only been invited as a permanent member of the Magyar “Állandó Értekezlet”, but a new sub-committee was founded – Diaspora Sub-Committee – which deals exclusively with the problems of the Hungarian communities outside of the Carpathian Basin. In both of these, LAMOSZSZ represents the Hungarians of Latin-America.