

Forced re-naming of the Dr. Benedek Géza Cardiology Hospital in Covasna

Founded in 1960 by Dr. Géza Benedek, the Cardiology Hospital in Covasna was named after its founder, in 2010. Last week, based on the request of the Iustinian Teculescu Christian-Cultural Association, the Ministry of Health issued a formal note in which informs the hospital of the immediate change of the name of the hospital into Dr. Teculescu-Benedek.

The move sparked outrage in the Hungarian community, the County Council of Covasna formally asked the Ministry of Health and the Prime-Minister for the original name, the founder's name to be kept. The doctors of the hospital also formulated their request that appeals to the authorities for the name of the founder to be kept as the name of the hospital. The doctors of the hospital are both of Hungarian and Romanian nationalities, however they all agree that the name of the institution should be the name of its founder.

It is noteworthy, that while Dr. Benedek Géza, who died in 2010, and served the local community as a respected doctor and he was the managing director for more than 25 years of the hospital that he founded himself, Dr. Teculescu never worked in the hospital, and had absolutely no connection whatsoever to the hospital or to the healing activities that has been taking place in it.

„We believe that this kind of forced re-naming is not only unacceptable but also illegal”- declared Sándor Tamás, the President of the county Council of Covasna. „For the hospital to be given the name of a person who had nothing to do with it, who never worked a day in his life in it, is disrespectful and unfair towards the memory and legacy of Dr. Géza Benedek, who was dedicated to the hospital his entire life and he served both the Hungarian and Romanian community through his work.”

According to the President of the Council, the memory of the founder must be respected, because it is due to him that there is a nationally renowned Cardiology hospital in Covasna County, which provides quality specialized health care to more than 16.000 patients yearly. *“We are proud of this institution that is known at home and abroad as Dr. Benedek Géza Cardiology Hospital and we refuse and will resist its unfair and unjust renaming.”*



The Ministry of Health changed the name of the Dr. Benedek Géza Cardiology Hospital, named after its founder without consultation of the County Council or the doctors who work in the named institution

Another Hungarian inscription was painted in Gheorgheni/Györgyfalva

Another Hungarian inscription was painted, this time in Gheorgheni, in county Cluj, nearby Cluj Napoca. In localities predominantly inhabited by Hungarians, the names of the localities are also written in Hungarian.

However, due to a growing anti-Hungarian sentiment in Romania, such Hungarian inscriptions, usually the name of the locality, are often painted, as a sign of anti-Hungarian hatred. Unknown perpetrators have acted again and they have painted the name Györgyfalva, thus leaving only Gheorgheni visible. The local community is shocked by this xenophobic act, that occurs all too often in Hungarian inhabited parts of Transylvania. A formal complaint was made by the locals to the authorities, but the perpetrators were not found nor identified.



Another Hungarian inscription was painted, this time near Cluj, at Gheorgheni