

**The Institutionalization of the Theological Education  
in the Diocese of Huși**  
(Abstract)

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*Keywords:* theological education, county catechism school, Theological Seminary of Huși, the Diocese of Huși, Nifon Bălășescu, Melchisedec Ștefănescu, clerics.

The paper refers to the middle of the 19-century, a period when the reformation of the theological education became a priority, a necessity and an imperative for the ecclesiastical authorities of that time in Moldavia. The elaboration of the *Law for the ecclesiastical education' organization in Moldavia* in 1851 was a direct consequence of this concern. On its basis was established the Theological Seminary of Husi. This was not established on a “void soil”; the documents mention the existence of “county catechism schools” organized five years prior to the Seminary.

Some fundamental provisions of the law are presented in synthesis; they refer to the regulation of the activity in the specific field and, later, are emphasized the aspects considered relevant for the first decade of Seminary's activity. These are information regarding the management, administration and the positions hierarchy within the Seminary, the courses' organization, the recruitment procedure and the students' admission conditions, the composition of the professorial staff, the structure of the school year, the study subjects, the manner of evaluation, the organization of the graduating exams and granting of diplomas.

The paper contains also references to the status and the activity of the “county catechism schools” preserved by the respective law and becoming real “nursery” for recruiting students for the Seminary. These references pertain to: the procedure of admission, the professors' instruction, the study subjects, the manner of reporting, the organization of the exams, the evaluation and the certification of the students.

The content of the paper is completed with several considerations regarding the personality and the activity of Melchisedec Ștefănescu, as Seminary's rector and also some aspects regarding the institution's building, namely the spaces where the courses were held and the efforts made by the management of the Seminary and of the Diocese in order to ensure proper conditions.