

# Weekly Media Review of Hungarian Communities Abroad

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PRIME MINISTERS OFFICE  
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COMMUNITIES ABROAD

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COMMUNITIES ABROAD



## Year of Hungarian families abroad comes to an end

Speaking at the closing press conference of the “2018 – Year of Hungarian families abroad” program, State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad Árpád János Potápi stressed that the thematic year was extremely successful. The state secretary said that from the total budget of the program – HUF 1 billion (EUR 3 million), HUF 814 million (EUR 2 million) was spent on calls for applications which were open for those Hungarian enterprises and organizations abroad which offer family-friendly services. Mr. Potápi stressed that within the framework of the program, they managed to reach 6500 Hungarian families and almost 10,000 children abroad. He recalled that the opening event of the thematic years was held in February 2018, with the participation of 200 family organizations and enterprises from all corners of the Carpathian Basin. He added that a memorable event was the so-called Family Day in the building of the Hungarian National Assembly, which was attended by hundreds of children from the kin-state and abroad. Mr. Potápi added that road shows in the Carpathian Basin were also extremely successful, as well as the traditional meeting of Hungarian entrepreneurs abroad which was held in June, with the participation of more than 200 entrepreneurs. Among the most successful parts of the thematic year, Mr. Potápi mentioned the so-called Miénk a város! (We rule the town!) game which is an online game for children between the age of 6-10. Similarly to the previous years, the winners won valuable presents (packages of toys and school supplies) for their community. The state secretary said that both calls for applications launched during the year were extremely popular. As part of the HUF 600 million (EUR 1.8 million) call for application, 118 enterprises abroad – which offer family-friendly services – won significant financial support. As part of the second call for application (the total budget of which was HUF 200 million (EUR 621,000)), 136 applications (mainly civil and church organizations) managed to win. Summarizing the main results of the thematic year, the state secretary emphasized that it is huge success that today “we can talk about a unified Carpathian Basin not only in the field of education, but in the field of economy as well.”



## Balázs Orbán: No empire should consider Hungarians as second-rate citizens

Speaking at the central commemoration marking the 255th anniversary of the Siculicidium (a massacre that took place at Madéfalva in 1764) held in Madéfalva/Siculeni at a monument recently renewed with Hungarian assistance, State Secretary at the Prime Minister’s Office Balázs Orbán said that “no empire should consider Hungarians as second-rate citizens” and he assured Hungarians across the Carpathian Basin of the Hungarian Government’s support. The state secretary stressed that “every country, should “respect a balance of rights and obligations achieved through negotiations” and “observe written agreements”. He added that “Once an empire — whether Vienna 255 years ago, Bucharest for the Szeklers nowadays, or sometimes Brussels for all of us — disrespects those



[agreements], resistance is considered legitimate under the ancient fundamentals of law.” Mr. Orbán said that Hungary “now has a government which has learnt the lessons of history and will promote the interests of Hungarians in the Carpathian Basin through sober compromises, strong representation and perseverance rather than through militant ranting”.

On 7 January 1765, the troops of Maria Theresa, Empress of Austria and Queen of Hungary, retaliated a protest by some 2,500 Szeklers who refused to serve in the Austrian army under command in German.

### Pope Francis to Hold Holy Mass in Csíksomlyó in 2019

Speaking to the Hungarian news agency MTI, canon Zoltán Oláh, press offices of the Gyulafehérvár/Alba Iulia archdiocese announced that Pope Francis will make an official visit to Romania. As part of his official program, the Holy Father will also visit Csíksomlyó/Şumuleu where he will hold a mass. Mr. Oláh added that the mass is going to follow the traditions of Csíksomlyó; therefore, it will be held outdoors in the outskirts of the Csíksomlyó mountains.” Pope Francis will travel to Romania for an Apostolic Visit that will take him to Bucharest, the eastern university city of Iaşi, Balázsfalva/Blaj in Transylvania and the Marian Shrine of Csíksomlyó/Sumuleu Ciuc. Francis will be the second pope to visit Romania, the first being John Paul II in 1999.



### Commission preparing beatification of János Esterházy sworn in

The commission of Hungarian, Slovak, Polish and Czech historians preparing the beatification process of János Esterhazy, a leader of Slovakia’s Hungarian community between the two world wars, was officially sworn in in Krakow, State Secretary for church, minority and civil society relations Miklós Soltész has said. Count Esterházy (1901-1957), the sole Hungarian deputy in the Slovak Parliament before 1945, was a firm advocate of the Hungarian community, raising his voice against any violation of minority rights and against discrimination. Mr. Soltész said that the ceremony was attended by Archbishop of Krakow Marek Jędraszewski and Polish minorite monk Paweł Cebula, the postulator of Esterhazy’s beatification, who currently serves in Eger, in northern Hungary. The commission’s task will be to study and assess the life and virtues of Esterházy. The Vatican gave the green light to the beatification process last November. The state secretary added that once Esterhazy’s life is also reviewed by a theological commission, it will be that body’s job to submit a recommendation for beatification to the Vatican.





## Igor Mirović: Vojvodina is the most successful region in economic development

Speaking to the Vojvodina Television and Radio, head of the Vojvodina provincial government Igor Mirović said that 2018 was a successful year for Serbia's economy and Vojvodina was the most successful region in this respect. Mr. Mirović added that this result is due to several factors: the reducing of public debt, budgetary surplus, an increasing number of investments and stable inflation. He added that indicators are extremely good in Vojvodina, especially in the field of export and agriculture. Mr. Mirović also added that Vojvodina has the lowest unemployment rate in the country, last year more than 20,000 people started to work.



## New Hungarian house is inaugurated in Transcarpathia

On Saturday, a new Hungarian house – built from assistance received from the Hungarian Government – was inaugurated in Transcarpathia's Nagydobrony/Velika Dobrony. Addressing the inauguration ceremony, ministerial commissioner István Grezsa said that Transcarpathian Hungarians are in the worst situation among Hungarian communities in the Carpathian Basin, therefore, they can always rely on Hungary's unconditional support. Mr. Grezsa stressed that the fact that Hungarians in Transcarpathian can rely on the solidarity and support of other Hungarian communities – living in different parts of the world – shows that we are a viable nation. He added that despite all the hardships of the 20th century, we can be sure that “we will build a strong and successful Hungary in the 21st century.” Mr. Grezsa highlighted that the main message of the Hungarian House in Nagydobrony is that it is worth being Hungarian in Transcarpathia and it is worth preserving Hungarian language and culture.



## Ferenc Horváth is reelected president of the MMÖNKT

The new council of the Hungarian National Municipal Community of Muravidék (MMÖNKT) has been formed in Lendva/Lendava. Ferenc Horváth has been reelected president of the MMÖNKT – the municipal body of the Hungarian national minority in Slovenia. After his reelection, Mr. Horváth thanked the support of the Slovenian and Hungarian government, as well as the State Secretariat for Hungarian Communities Abroad, the main partner of the MMÖNKT. Mr. Horváth added that his main goal is to continue the work which has been started: to continue economic development programs and the Carpathian Basin Nursery School Program in Slovenia, and to start new programs. The reelected chairman stressed that during the past years the Hungarian community in Slovenia became stronger. He added that one of his main goals for the next four years is to have at least one Hungarian event and at least one Hungarian investment in every town which has Hungarian population.