

# Weekly Media Review of Hungarian Communities Abroad

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PRIME MINISTERS OFFICE  
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COMMUNITIES ABROAD

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## New Hungarian kindergarten is inaugurated in Transylvania

On Thursday, a new Hungarian kindergarten was inaugurated in Transylvania's Kökös/Chichiș, Kovászna/Kovasna county. Its building was supported by Romania, while its furnishing – partly – by the Hungarian Government. Speaking at the ceremony, State Secretary for Hungarian communities abroad at the Prime Minister's Office Árpád János Potápi stressed that the supporting of the kindergarten was part of the Hungarian Government's Carpathian Basin Nursery School Program as part of which 150 nursery schools are built and 460 institutions are renovated in the Carpathian Basin. Mr. Potápi added that due to the program, new or renovated institutions are inaugurated almost every week in some parts of the Carpathian Basin. The state secretary emphasized that the nursery school program is very important since "these institutions ensure the future for young Hungarians." The Hungarian kindergarten in Kökös – in which 23 children study in their mother tongue – received HUF 15.6 million (EUR 49,000) from the Hungarian Government.

## The EMNP has new president

On Saturday, the Transylvanian Hungarian People's Party (EMNP) held its 6th election of officials' meeting in Nagyvárad/Oradea, where the party's new chairman was elected. Instead of the former president Zsolt Szilágyi, István Csomortányi will lead the party in the future. The 36-year-old politician is the third president of the EMNP – which was founded in 2011 – after Tibor T. Toró and Zsolt Szilágyi. At the meeting, the elected new president asked the founding president of the EMNP Tibor T. Toró to continue his work as executive chairman of the party. Speaking to the Hungarian news agency MTI, Mr. Csomortányi said that "Tibor T. Toró is a politician whom they can always rely on, therefore, there is no need to make a change in this position."



## István Grezsa: Hungary wants to play a crucial role in the future of the Carpathian Basin

Speaking in Slovakia's Ebed/Obid after the inauguration ceremony of the local Hungarian kindergarten, ministerial commissioner István Grezsa stressed that "Hungary wants to play a crucial role in the future of the Carpathian Basin." In addition to the nursery school in Ebed, the ministerial commissioner inaugurated two other Hungarian kindergartens were in Slovakia: in Ipolyszalka/Salka and Nyírágó/Nýrovce. The three institutions altogether received HUF 80 million (EUR 252,000) from the Hungarian Government. Mr. Grezsa stressed that all the three towns have a great Hungarian past where Hungarians live in majority, therefore, "it is important to deliver to these places the message that Hungary relies on every Hungarian in the building of the nation", adding that "we are the members of the same national community and the Carpathian Basin is our common homeland." He



stressed that Hungarian kindergartens are “an investment in the future” in which Hungary wants to play a crucial role. Mr. Grezsa added that this role is impossible without Hungarian communities living abroad. The ministerial commissioner expressed the hope that the Carpathian Basin Nursery School program will strengthen not only Hungarian communities but Hungarian-Slovakian relations as well.



### Árpád János Potápi: Children are the pledge for Hungarian future

On Monday, 80 Hungarian families living in Vojvodina received the so-called “baby packages” from the Hungarian Government as part of the 2019 – Year of Hungarian children abroad. As part of the initiative of the State Secretariat for Hungarian Communities Abroad, every Hungarian family which applied for the maternity allowance in 2018 within the framework of the Köldökszínór program, receives a gift – a baby package – from the State Secretariat. The first packages were presented to Hungarian families in Vojvodina’s Palics/Palić, where 80 families received the gift. Addressing the event, State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad Árpád János Potápi stressed that “Hungary’s future depends on children.” He added that “the current unfavorable demographic process must be returned,” stressing that the Hungarian Government has been working hard on the realization of this goal. Mr. Potápi said that it is the task of the government to adopt more and more measures which have an impact on Hungarian parents’ thinking, encouraging them to have more children. He added that this is true not only in Hungary but in the whole of the Carpathian Basin. The state secretary expressed the pleasure that Hungarian parties abroad also accepted the initiative of the Hungarian Government to put family policy in the focus of their politics. Speaking at the event, the state secretary expressed his special thanks to the Alliance of Vojvodina Hungarians (VMSZ) and the Hungarian National Council.



### The head of the KMKSZ sues the Central Election Commission of Ukraine

The president of the Cultural Association of Hungarians in Transcarpathia (KMKSZ) László Brenzovics has sued the Central Election Commission of Ukraine because the body has rejected the claim of the KMKSZ to form a Hungarian-majority election district during the next parliamentary election (scheduled to take place in the fall). In his claim, Mr. Brenzovics cites article 18 of the Ukrainian law on election according to which during the formation of election districts, the interests of local national minorities must always be taken into account. Mr. Brenzovics also recalled that in 2014 (before the 2014 parliamentary elections), the Cultural Association of Hungarians in Transcarpathia (KMKSZ) had the same request which was also rejected. Moreover, Hungarians living in Transcarpathian were dispersed in three election districts. The head of the KMKSZ stressed that this is a violation of the law.



## Péter Szilágyi attends Hungarian events in Phoenix

During the weekend, two Hungarian events were held in Phoenix, USA. The local Hungarian community organized the Hungarian Heritage Festival for the first time which was followed by a commemoration, marking the 171st anniversary of the 1848/49 Hungarian Revolution and Freedom Fight. Both events were addressed by Ministerial Commissioner responsible for Hungarian Communities Abroad Péter Szilágyi. The ministerial commissioner quoted the word of famous Hungarian author Sándor Márai, stressing that “regardless where Hungarians live, they are connected to each other.” On behalf of the Hungarian Government, Mr. Szilágyi expressed his gratitude to Hungarians living in Phoenix for the preservation of Hungarian culture. The ministerial commissioner also spoke about the most important activities of the Hungarian Diaspora Council and the main programs and measures of the Hungarian Government aimed at the supporting of diaspora Hungarians. Referring to the approaching EP elections, Mr. Szilágyi stressed that “Hungarians are now at threshold of an era when they can realize great aims again.” He added that “like in 1848, in May 2019 we will have again the opportunity to shape the future of Europe.”

