

# Weekly Media Review of Hungarian Communities Abroad

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PRIME MINISTERS OFFICE  
STATE SECRETARIAT FOR HUNGARIAN  
COMMUNITIES ABROAD

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COMMUNITIES ABROAD



## Árpád János Potápi: we support the building of twin town relations in the Carpathian Basin

Speaking at a press conference in Budapest, State Secretary Árpád János Potápi announced that the State Secretariat for Hungarian Communities Abroad has decided on the distribution of the HUF 500 million (EUR..) which will be spend in two main fields: the building of twin town relations in the Carpathian Basin (between towns in Hungary and in neighboring countries) and the realization of youth programs. The state secretary said that the two calls for applications were announced in November 2018, but their implementation period is 2019. Mr. Potápi added that both calls for applications are extremely popular, and so their total budgets have been increased year by year. The state secretary stressed that it is extremely important that new relations have been formed and existing relations strengthened between towns in Hungary and Hungarian towns abroad. He added that the overall aim is to strengthen national cohesion and Hungarian-Hungarian relations in the Carpathian Basin.

## Ferenc Rákóczi II Memorial Year officially begins

The Ferenc Rákóczi II Memorial Year officially began in Budapest on 27 March: the 343th anniversary of the birth of Transylvanian prince Ferenc Rákóczi. At the initiative of the head of the Council for Human Dignity Zoltán Lomnici, the Hungarian national assembly declared 2019 the Memorial Year of Ferenc Rákóczi, marking the 315th anniversary of his becoming the prince of Transylvania. Speaking at the opening event in Heroes Square in Budapest, Parliamentary State Secretary at the Ministry of Defense and one of the patrons of the memorial year Szilárd Németh said that “the life of Ferenc Rákóczi is an example for young Hungarians living in the Carpathian Basin.” He added that Rákóczi’s love for freedom and his homeland was an example for the freedom fighters of 1848 and 1956, and is still an example today.



## First “newborn packages” are handed over in Csíkszereda

On Wednesday, the first “newborn packages” were handed over to Hungarian families in Csíkszereda/Miercurea Ciuc. Each package is a present from the State Secretariat for Hungarian Communities Abroad to those families who applied for the maternity allowance as part of the Köldökzsínór Program. The event was part of the 2019 – Year of Hungarian Children Abroad program. In his speech, Consul General of Hungary to Csíkszereda/ Miercurea Ciuc László Tóth stated that the Hungarian Government has declared 2019 the Year of Hungarian Children Abroad. He added that several programs will be realized as part of the thematic year: calls for applications will be launched for entrepreneurs who offer family-friendly services, as well as for church and civil organizations. Mr. Tóth stressed that the total budget of the thematic years is HUF 1 billion and its aim is for more and more Hungarian children to be born in the Carpathian Basin.



### Further renovated Hungarian nursery school in Slovakia

Last week a further Hungarian nursery school was inaugurated in Slovakia as part of the Carpathian Basin Nursery School Program. The institution – which is located in Révkomárom/Komárno – received EUR 230,000 from the State Secretariat for Hungarian Communities Abroad. Speaking at the event, head of department responsible for Slovakia Éva Czibalmosné Molnár said that the aim of the renovation is to help Hungarian families remain in their homeland. Speaking at the event, Ms. Czibalmosné presented the most important results of the Carpathian Basin Nursery School Program in Slovakia.

### Zuzana Čaputová is elected new president of Slovakia

Saturday saw the second round of the Slovakian presidential election, which was won by liberal lawyer Zuzana Čaputová. Although turnout among Hungarians was much lower than the national average, the majority of Hungarians who participated voted for Ms. Čaputová. The president-elect has broken several “Hungarian records”: she had the largest victory in the Dunaszerdahely/Dunajská Streda district where Hungarians are in a majority. The lowest turnout was also observed in a Hungarian-majority district: the district of Révkomárom/Komárno. However, Ms. Čaputová also had an overwhelming majority in this district.



### The Serbian Parliament does not adopt law on Vojvodina

The Serbian Parliament has not adopted the law on the financing of Vojvodina and the resolution concerning the province. MPs discussed 14 amendments. During the session, several members of the ruling coalition stressed that the resolution on Vojvodina “would degrade Serbian people.” The Constitution of Serbia guarantees 7% of the country’s budget for the province, but the financing of Vojvodina has not been settled yet. The Alliance of Vojvodina Hungarians announced that “they could not vote against Vojvodina.” However, it was not enough for the adoption of the amendment. The Serbian Progressive Party did not support the proposal. According to the party, the law on the financing of Vojvodina would lead to the collapse of the financial system of the country, and the resolution is unconstitutional.



### Presidential election in Ukraine – Preliminary results

According to preliminary results, on 31 March comedian Volodymyr Zelenskiy won the first round of the presidential election in Ukraine, obtaining twice as many votes as the current president, Petro Poroshenko. According to preliminary results – after 40% of the votes have been processed – Mr. Zelenskiy received 30.2% of the votes,



while the current president Petro Poroshenko won only 16.7%. In third place was Yulia Tymoshenko, the candidate of the “Fatherland” party (13.1 %). On the basis of the current results of the Central Election Commission of Ukraine, there will be a second round, in which the comedian Volodymyr Zelenskiy and the current president Petro Poroshenko will compete against each other.

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