

# 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



### New Hungarian kindergarten to be built in Nagyvárad

On Thursday, State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad at the Prime Minister's Office Árpád János Potápi attended the ground-breaking ceremony of a Hungarian kindergarten in Nagyvárad/Oradea. The Hungarian Government provided HUF 115 million (EUR 362,000) for the building of the nursery school of the Saint Ladislaus Roman Catholic High School. Speaking to the Hungarian news agency MTI after the ground-breaking ceremony, Árpád János Potápi expressed his pleasure that there is a need to develop Hungarian nursery school education in Nagyvárad, a town which always played an important role in Hungarian history. The state secretary added that as part of the Carpathian Basin Nursery School Program, 94 new Hungarian kindergartens will be built and 102 institutions will be renovated in Transylvania from a budget of HUF 25 billion (EUR 78 million). After the ceremony Mr. Potápi paid a visit to Kraszna/Crasna, where he inaugurated new apartments built for Hungarian doctors by the Studium Prospero Foundation from Hungarian Government support. Speaking to the Hungarian news agency MTI, Mr. Potápi said that the Hungarian Government is providing HUF 250 million (EUR 787,000) for the foundation, which builds accommodation for Hungarian doctors and artists. He added that the aim is to remove the need for doctors and artists to leave their homeland in the hope of better lives.

### The Hungarian Government will always be a partner in the protection and expansion of the acquired rights of Hungarians living abroad

Speaking to Hungary's public media at the beginning of his two-day official visit to Csíkszereda/Miercuria Ciuc, State Secretary Tamás Menczer from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade stressed that "The Hungarian Government wishes to always be a partner in the protection and expansion of the acquired rights of Hungarians living abroad." The state secretary said that his visit had several reasons and goals. Firstly he brought donations to the Csibész Foundation in Csíkszereda, which cares for orphaned children. After presenting these, he was scheduled to meet mayors from the Szeklerland region to listen to their suggestions. On Friday, he said he would take part in a citizens' oath-taking ceremony at the Hungary Consulate General in Csíkszereda, meet with the local organizers of the papal visit to Csíksomlyó/Șumuleu Ciuc planned for 1 June, give a presentation at the Sapienta Transylvanian Hungarian University of Sciences and visit the Szeklerland Football Academy.

### Hungarian President János Áder will attend the papal mass in Csíksomlyó

The President's Office has informed the Hungarian news agency MTI that President János Áder and his wife Anita Herczegh will attend the Holy Mass being celebrated on June 1 by Pope Francis in the traditional pilgrimage site of Csíksomlyó/Sumuleu Ciuc



in central Romania. Mr. Áder will attend the Mass at the invitation of György Jakubinyi, Archbishop of Gyulafehérvár/Alba Iulia. The office added that the President and his wife will also visit the traditional pilgrimage a week later on June 8. Over 100,000 visitors have already registered for the Mass being celebrated by the pontiff, with a “pilgrim train” operating from Hungary to meet demand.



### Slovakian President Andrej Kiska vetoes the new law on national anthems

On Thursday, Slovakian President Andrej Kiska vetoed a proposed law which would have made the singing of foreign national anthems in Slovakia punishable by a fine. According to the amendment adopted in March, a foreign country’s national anthem cannot be sung or played in Slovakia unless an official delegation of that state is present. The Party of the Hungarian Community (MKP) protested against the law and asked the President to veto the proposal. Later, the head of the Slovak National Party (SNS) – which presented the law – and the head of the Slovak-Hungarian mixed party Most-Híd (Bridge) – which voted in favor of the law – asked the same from the President. The President officially sent the law and his criticisms of it back to the Parliament. Mr. Kiska argued that the anthem ban “does not have a clear and reasonable purpose.” After the veto the proposal will be returned to the Slovakian Parliament, which is expected to amend it.

### The MKP launches a petition aimed at the free use of the symbols of national minorities

The Party of the Hungarian Community (MKP) has started to collect signatures to support its petition to ensure the free use of the symbols of national minorities. The petition was “inspired” by the recently adopted legislative amendment, which aimed to ban the singing of national anthems if a delegation from the relevant state is not present. The President of the Party of the Hungarian Community József Menyhárt stressed that the free use of symbols of national communities must be guaranteed by law, and every restriction and sanction on this must be removed from Slovak law.



### István Pásztor: Hungarians in Vojvodina have an important role in EP election

The President of the Alliance of Vojvodina Hungarians (VMSZ) István Pásztor attended a press talk in Szabadka/Subotica entitled “Hungarian, national, politics – after 100 years of solitude”. Responding to journalists’ questions, the head of the VMSZ stressed that due to the paradigm shift in the policy for Hungarian communities abroad, Hungarian-Hungarian relations and cooperation with the kin-state have reached a level that has never been seen before. Mentioning the most important



measures, the head of the VMSZ highlighted that as part of the Hungarian Government's economic development program more than EUR 250 million "has arrived" in the region, helping the everyday life of Hungarian entrepreneurs and families. Mr. Pásztor added that this program is an exemplary one, and the model which was started in Vojvodina is now used in other Hungarian regions abroad. Concerning the EP elections, the chairman of the VMSZ stressed that Hungarians living in Vojvodina have a very important role since as dual citizens they can have a say in the election, contributing to the strengthening of Hungarian representation in the European Union.

### Viktor Orbán: Serbia and Hungary must act together to defend their borders

Following a joint session of the Hungarian and Serbian cabinets, in a press statement issued in the company of Serbian prime minister Ana Brnabić, Prime Minister Viktor Orbán declared that Serbia and Hungary must act together to defend their borders, the security of their citizens and their cultural identities. Prime Minister Orbán expressed his thanks to Serbia for helping to stop migration at Hungary's southern borders. He also said that, if needed, Serbia can also count on technical assistance or personnel from Hungary to help protect its southern borders. The Prime Minister said that the countries of the Visegrád Group are calling for Serbia to be granted European Union membership as soon as possible. He observed that "The proof of progress in Serbia is obvious and clearly visible", and thus the EU should see Belgrade as a resource and an opportunity. He added that this is particularly true in view of the fact that when Serbia protects itself from migration, it is also protecting the whole of Europe. The Prime Minister assured the Hungarian community living in Serbia of his support for their requests in the fields of culture and education, and thanked Serbia for supporting the autonomy of Hungarians in Vojvodina, the national councils and the cultural institutions behind them. The Prime Minister said that "everything happening in Serbia in relation to minorities" is exemplary.



### Petro Poroshenko: Hungarians have every right to study in their mother tongue

On Sunday, Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko waited to debate his challenger Volodymyr Zelensky in Kiev's Olympic Stadium. Mr. Zelensky did not appear, however. Grasping the opportunity, Mr. Poroshenko held a press conference, as part of which he talked about Hungarian-Ukrainian relations and the situation of Transcarpathian Hungarians. Answering a journalist's question, he said that he "hopes that Hungary – which is now blocking the relations between Kiev and the NATO because of the debate on the law on education – will support Ukraine's EU integration". He added that 2023 is the year when Ukraine has to sign the NATO membership action plan and has to submit its accession application to the EU. He expressed confidence that Hungary and other EU Member States will support Ukraine



“as was promised several times”. The Ukrainian President added that Kiev is open to compromises on the rights of the Hungarian national minority. He added that Hungarians have every right to study in their mother tongue.

