

# Weekly Media Review of Hungarian Communities Abroad

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PRIME MINISTERS OFFICE  
STATE SECRETARIAT FOR HUNGARIAN  
COMMUNITIES ABROAD

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## Orbán: We've achieved a record victory on a record turnout

At an election result watch event in Budapest's Bálna Centre on Sunday evening, Prime Minister Viktor Orbán called the result for Fidesz-KDNP in the European Parliament election an "epochal and record victory", promising that "For us, Hungary will come first in Brussels as well [...]. We have achieved a record victory on a record turnout. We all know that the migration wave launched the beginning of a new era in European politics, so we can safely say that we've achieved an epochal victory." Mr. Orbán thanked voters who decided that "Hungary should remain a Hungarian country and Europe should belong to the Europeans". The Prime Minister and President of Fidesz stressed that "The European election is especially important for us Hungarians: it is a great, unrepeatable opportunity for national unification, because not only will we be in Brussels, but the Hungarian communities beyond the borders will also be there. Together we will represent the interests of the whole Hungarian nation."

## János Áder meets the Ukrainian president and discusses the problems of Hungarian communities living in Ukraine

In Kiev On Monday the Hungarian president met the new Ukrainian president Volodymyr Zelensky after his inauguration to discuss the problems of Hungarian communities living outside Hungary. Mr. Áder proposed to his Ukrainian counterpart the setting up of a joint committee to serve as a forum for discussing all disagreements between Hungary and Ukraine in a calm atmosphere. After the discussions Mr. Áder told MTI that Mr. Zelensky supported the proposal. The President stressed: "Our interest lies in fostering equally stable and peaceful relations with Ukraine — our most populous neighbour — as with our other neighbours. We are ready for this. At the same time I made it clear that the Hungarian community of Transcarpathia isn't asking for more than for Ukraine to meet the obligations it is bound to by its constitution and international treaties." He said that the rights of Ukraine's Hungarian community were more restricted than they had been in the Soviet Union.

## Rákóczi Association celebrates its 30th anniversary

In Budapest on Thursday the Rákóczi Association celebrated its 30th anniversary. Several Hungarian politicians participated in the event. Deputy Prime Minister Zsolt Semjén said: "The activities of the Rákóczi Association can't be substituted by anything. The Hungarian state and every Hungarian organisation must do their best to preserve the nation. The Rákóczi Association represents commitment to the motherland." At the ceremony speeches were delivered by Speaker of the House László Kövér and Minister heading the Prime Minister's Office Gergely Gulyás. Mr. Gulyás said that the greatest achievement and merit of the Rákóczi Association is the forming of a community to serve the nation. The Minister called the Rákóczi



Association the most important non-governmental organisation and expressed his special thanks to its president József Halzl, who has held this position for more than 29 years, giving direction to the organisation. At the general assembly held before the ceremony, Minister of State for Hungarian Communities Abroad Árpád János Potápi highlighted that 30 years ago when communism fell there were difficult and hopeful times, when relations were still not very close between the motherland and the annexed areas. At that time the Association stood firmly by their compatriots and provided assistance as a non-governmental organisation wherever it was needed.

### Ministerial commissioner: the aim of the Government is to connect 15 million Hungarians around world

On Tuesday in Budapest, Ministerial commissioner responsible for Hungarian communities abroad said that the Government aims to connect the 15 million Hungarians living in the motherland, the Carpathian Basin and in the diaspora, and the objective of the programs supporting Hungarian communities in the diaspora is to give new momentum to the life of these communities. At the opening ceremony of the training week for scholarship-holders travelling to the southern hemisphere under the 2019-2020 Kőrösi Csoma Sándor Program, Mr. Szilágyi highlighted that the program is aimed at Hungarian communities among the 2.5 people living in the diaspora. The ministerial commissioner said that “Our objective is to preserve the values that our ancestors created in the diaspora, and to pay “special attention” to young people. He added that this is the reason why he would like to send as many young people living in Hungary as possible to Hungarian communities living in the diaspora, and would like scholarship holders to approach as many young people there as possible.



### The RMDSZ will have representation in the EP

European Parliament elections in Romania saw the strengthening of centre-right opposition parties. Despite the high turnout, the Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania (RMDSZ) managed to reach the obligatory minimum threshold of 5%. According to preliminary results – after 96.7 % of the votes have been processed – the National Liberal Party had 26.8%, while the Social Democratic Party (the leading force of the Romanian Government) – 23.4 %. The Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania (RMDSZ) received 5.45 % which means that the party will have at least one representative in the European Parliament.

Speaking in Kolozsvár/Cluj Napoca in connection with the EP election, the head of the RMDSZ Hunor Kelemen said that exit polls show that Hungarian communities in Transylvania will have a strong voice in the European Parliament. The president of the alliance stressed that RMDSZ will represent a balanced and firm point of view in the next term in the legislation of the union.



## EP elections: the MKP and the Most-Híd do not pass the threshold

According to official results published on Sunday, two liberal parties, the Progressive Slovakia (PS) and the Együtt (Spolu) have won the European Parliament Elections in Slovakia. Neither the Party of Hungarian Community (MKP) nor the Slovakian-Hungarian mixed party Most-Híd (Bridge) managed to pass the 5% threshold which was necessary to get mandate. Turnout in the country was extremely low (22.74%), compared to other EU member states.

## Potápi: Developments in Slovakia continue successfully

Speaking in Slovakia's Debrőd (Debrad') on Monday, State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad Árpád János Potápi said that development programs aiming at the strengthening of Hungarian communities in Slovakia continue successfully. Mr. Pótápi participated in the inauguration ceremony of the Szent László pilgrim house built with the financial support of the Hungarian Government. The building of the house served as a school and church in the 18th century. Speaking at the event, the state secretary recalled that in the recent period, several important development projects were realized in Slovakia with Hungary's help, serving the permanence and prosperity of Hungarian communities in Slovakia. Among them, Mr. Potápi mentioned the community house of the Rovás Association and the Márai memorial house.



## Folk museum presenting the heritage of Bukovina Szeklers is inaugurated in Hertelendyfalva

In Serbia's Hertelendyfalva/Vojlovica, a folk museum house presenting the heritage of Bukovina Szeklers was inaugurated on Saturday. Speaking at the inauguration ceremony of the building - which was supported by the Hungarian Government - State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad Árpád János Potápi said that besides culture and education we need to support institutions which contribute to the preservation of identity. He stressed that the folk museum in Hertelendyfalva will serve this aim. Mr. Potápi emphasized that Hungarians living in this region showed their life force several times, and this investment is also a great evidence that "this community wants to live and remain in its homeland."



## The Treasures of Transcarpathia – Photo exhibition in the House of Hungarians

Speaking at the opening ceremony of a photo exhibition entitled "Treasures of Transcarpathia" in the House of Hungarians, ministerial commissioner for Hungarian



Communities Abroad Péter Szilágyi said that the Hungarian community living in Transcarpathia gives an eternal example of “how to remain in the ocean of a majority nation and how to never give up.” Mr. Szilágyi stressed that photos of the exhibition – the professional work of photographer János Perl – give us a taste of Transcarpathia. He added that the exhibition is built on the main pillars of the Hungarian community in Transcarpathia: history, traditions, religion and education. Mr. Szilágyi stressed that although the Hungarian community in Transcarpathia is in an extremely difficult situation, it can always rely on the kin-state’s support.

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