

# Weekly Media Review of Hungarian Communities Abroad

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PRIME MINISTERS OFFICE  
STATE SECRETARIAT FOR HUNGARIAN  
COMMUNITIES ABROAD

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## Szijjártó: backward steps in national minority rights in Romania are unacceptable

In a statement sent to the Hungarian news agency MTI on Saturday, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade Péter Szijjártó said It is unacceptable that backward steps have been taken concerning national minority rights in Romania. Mr. Szijjártó pointed out that the country's new administrative code, enacted by the Romanian government with an emergency order, reduces, rather than expands national minority rights, contrary to a proposal supported earlier by the majority of parliament. In line with the new regulation, national minorities will lose their right to use their mother tongue if their proportion within the general population drops below 20 percent. The earlier regulation guaranteed the protection of acquired rights regardless of future changes in the population, the statement added. The minister added that "We believe the new regulations also endanger the right to use the mother tongue for official administrative procedures in villages and towns where the proportion of the national minority still exceeds 20 percent". He added that international and bilateral regulations protect minority rights and these must be respected in Romania.

## Szeklerland Romanian organizations protest against Hungarian language rights in Bucharest

Two Romanian civil organizations – active mainly in Szeklerland – held protests against the presumed extension of Hungarian language rights in front of the building of the government in Bucharest on Sunday. In respond to the call for protest from the Civil Forum of Romanians in Kovászna/Covasna, Hargita/Munții Harghita and Maros/Mureș counties together with the organization Nemzet Útja (Way of the Nation), hundreds of protesters arrived in the square, waving Romanian flags. Among the demonstrators, who "scared people" that Hungarian language would be made official were the blogger Dan Tanasă, infamous for anti-Hungarian denunciations as well as the activist George Simion, an advocate of the Romanian-Moldavian union, who has shown anti-Hungarian attitude recently.

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## Potápi: Hungarian communities in Slovakia have a future

In Slovakia's Martos/Martovce on Wednesday, at the inauguration ceremony of a new Hungarian Reformed kindergarten built as part of the Carpathian Basin Nursery School Program, State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad at the Prime Minister's Office Árpád János Potápi said that the Hungarian communities in Slovakia have a future as they set objectives and act accordingly. At the inauguration ceremony of the new kindergarten which was the first official program of the Martos Free University, one of the biggest summer events of the Hungarian communities in Slovakia, State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad Árpád János Potápi said that the Hungarian communities in Slovakia have a future. The State Secretary said



that the Hungarian Government's aim is to create a coherent space in the Carpathian Basin from economic, educational and other points of view.

### **Szilágyi: Hungarian communities in the diaspora become a resource**

In Slovakia's Martos/Martovce on Friday, Ministerial Commissioner responsible for Hungarian Communities Abroad Péter Szilágyi said that the Hungarian communities in the diaspora have become a resource recently. The ministerial commissioner spoke about this as part of a forum named "We are a global nation" held at the seventh Martos Free University which focused on Hungarian communities living in the diaspora. Péter Szilágyi said that the State Secretariat for Hungarian Communities Abroad has launched several programs recently, aimed at the supporting of Hungarian communities in the diaspora. He added that thanks to these initiatives, ties both between Hungarian communities living in the diaspora and the motherland as well as Hungarian communities in the diaspora and Hungarians in the Carpathian Basin have become closer. Péter Szilágyi pointed out that an increasing number of people take Hungarian citizenship and a number of businesses have been established in Hungary by successful Hungarian entrepreneurs living in the diaspora.

### **Balázs Orbán: the Central European Area is appreciated in the European politics**

At the Martos Free University in Slovakia's Martos/Martovce, the Parliamentary and Strategic State Secretary of the Prime Minister's Office Balázs Orbán said that the Carpathian Basin and Central European area is appreciated in the European political life. Balázs Orbán spoke about this at the forum "The Hungarian future of the Carpathian homeland stems in local governments" held at the Martos Free University. He pointed out that the events surrounding the nomination of the future leader of the European Commission have proven that the Central European Area has gained a more significant role in the European political life. Mr. Orbán said that "this has been the first time that the Visegrád Group and the Central European Area have moved forward together in the same direction, (...) which enables us to reach the goals that we set both together and separately."

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### **Potápi: the majority nation in Transcarpathia also requires Hungarian-language education for children**

In his speech delivered in Ökörmezőn/Mizshirja at the inauguration ceremony of a kindergarten renovated as part of the Hungarian Government's Carpathian Basin Nursery School Program, State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad Árpád János Potápi said that they are delighted to note that the majority nation in Transcarpathia has a demand for receiving education and culture in the Hungarian language starting in the kindergarten, and the Hungarian government is pleased to provide this assistance. Árpád János Potápi stressed that it is of great importance that



there is a demand for education in the Hungarian language in the areas where the population is not Hungarian. He added that an outstanding example for this is the Ukrainian nursery school in Ökörmező which approached the Hungarian Teachers' Association in Transcarpathia (KMPSZ), stating that it wants to join the Carpathian Basin Nursery School Program. The institution has launched a Hungarian course for nursery school children, in return, the Hungarian Government ensured financial help to renovate a part of the building. Speaking at the ceremony, the state secretary expressed his pleasure that more and more Ukrainians are interested in studying Hungarian language.

### Zsolt Németh: we hope changes in Ukraine will enable the restoration of Hungarian-Ukrainian relations

Speaking at a roundtable discussion at the 27th Transcarpathian Summer University in Felőszinevér/Sinevirs'kaja Poljana focusing on the situation of Ukraine, Chairman of the Parliament's Foreign Affairs Committee Zsolt Németh expressed hope that recent changes in Ukraine will enable the restoration of Hungarian-Ukrainian relations. In his presentation Zsolt Németh said that the outcome of Ukraine's recent presidential election meant that "the Poroshenko era has come to an end and with it so will the institutionalized, centrally organized anti-Hungarian measures". Mr. Németh stressed that Hungary has high hopes for the future policies of Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky. He added that at present, Hungary's job is to get the major world powers to see how Ukraine's education and language laws violate minority rights in the country.