

# Weekly Media Review of Hungarian Communities Abroad

42/2019



PRIME MINISTERS OFFICE  
STATE SECRETARIAT FOR HUNGARIAN  
COMMUNITIES ABROAD

NPKI | RESEARCH INSTITUTE FOR HUNGARIAN  
COMMUNITIES ABROAD



## Katalin Novák: we have to meet the standards of 1956 both in the present and in the future over and over again

1956 set a standard for the Hungarian nation which we have to meet both in the present and in the future. State Secretary for Family and Youth Affairs at the Ministry of Human Capacities Katalin Novák said that 1956 has set high standards for the Hungarian nation which must be met over and over and again both today and in the future. Mrs. Novák was speaking in Kolozsvár/ Cluj-Napoca at a gala event on the anniversary of the Revolution organized by the Hungarian Consulate General in Kolozsvár. Mrs. Novák said that the cries from Budapest in 1956 did not reach the ears of the Western states, but were heard by Újvidék/Novi Sad, Temesvár/Timișoara, Arad, and Kolozsvár/ Cluj-Napoca, where many suffered after proclaiming their solidarity. She pointed out that the hearts of the Hungarian nation beat together both in 1920 and 1989, and added that the message of the events in Kolozsvár/ Cluj-Napoca, Marosvásárhely/Târgu Mureș or in the Valley of Úz must be heard worldwide.

## Hungarian National Council of Transylvania reelects László Tőkés as president

At its national assembly of delegates on Saturday, the Hungarian National Council of Transylvania (EMNT) reelected the founder of the organization László Tőkés as president for two more years. Krisztina Sándor will continue to perform her duties as acting president. In his address delivered to the nearly one hundred delegates, Mr. Tőkés recalled the Hungarian communities' fight for autonomy in Transylvania, adding that it is clear that there is only one real and viable answer to the fragmentation of the historical country and the Hungarian nation one hundred years ago: autonomy. Árpád János Potápi, State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad at the Prime Minister's Office and Prime Ministerial Commissioner Katalin Szili greeted the assembly of delegates in letters sent to the assembly. Mr. Potápi expressed his thanks to the EMNT for the assistance they provide to the Consulate General of Csíkszereda/ Miercurea Ciuc and Kolozsvár/ Cluj-Napoca in the naturalization process. He concluded by saying that they are counting on this work being continued.

## Watch fires lit in over eighty settlements in Szeklerland expressing their claim for autonomy

Zoltán Gazda, office director of the event organizer the Szekler National Council (SZNT), said that watch fires were lit in over eighty settlements in Szeklerland on Sunday evening to express their claim for autonomy. On the Day of Autonomy for Szeklerland signatures were collected in churches in the morning and at the watch fires in the afternoon by the SZNT to support the European civil initiative requesting the establishment of national regions. At all the watch fires local organizers read out the petition, in which they again expressed their claim for the autonomy of Szeklerland. The document states that the European Union must review the "rigid and



outdated” interpretation of the right to self-determination, which assures this right solely to the populations of states.



## Potápi: the freedom of Central Europe today is the achievement of the Hungarian heroes of 1956

Speaking in Dunaszerdahely/Dunajská Streda in Slovakia at a celebration commemorating the 1956 Revolution and Freedom Fight, State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad at the Prime Minister’s Office Árpád János Potápi said that freedom in Central Europe today is the achievement of the Hungarian heroes of 1956. The central commemoration was held at the monument for the Victims of Dictatorships in Dunaszerdahely/Dunajská Streda, which is regarded as the center of Csallóköz. Hundreds of people gathered to participate in the event. Leading politicians of the Hungarian representation in Slovakia, as well as well-known public figures, attended the ceremony. In his address, the State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad recalled the initial events of the Revolution, pointing out that the claims expressed in 1956 were not new, but similar to the ones that had been initiated a hundred years earlier in 1848, expressing the long-held wish of the Hungarian nation: to create their future freely and independently from the superpowers. Mr. Potápi said that following the initial actions of 1956 the whole country was ablaze, and the news of freedom spread to the Hungarian communities outside the borders. As a result the bloody suppression of the Revolution was mourned not only in Hungary, but by the whole Hungarian nation all over the world.

## Presidency of the Party of the Hungarian Community (MKP) rejects agreement with Most-Híd (Bridge)

Most-Híd (Bridge) and the MKP held a board meeting on the evening of 22nd March. While the presidency of the Bridge accepted the draft agreement released on Friday on running on a single electoral list, the council of the MKP rejected it. In his announcement to the media, the press secretary of the MKP pointed out that unified Hungarian representation is still the priority of the MKP, and they are initiating five-party talks, taking into account the opinion of the districts and their members. The five-party talks will be hosted by the MKP, and three other parties with significantly lower support will be invited: the Hungarian Christian Democratic Alliance (MKDSZ); the Hungarian Forum, led by Zsolt Simon, who entered Parliament on the list of Bridge but later resigned from the party; and the formation Összefogás, which was registered this week. Hungarian press agency MTI was informed that the meeting is expected to take place at the weekend.

At the invitation of the MKP, the delegates of the Hungarian parties in Slovakia conducted discussions in the headquarters of the party in Pozsony/Bratislava. President of the National Committee of the MKP Péter Óry pointed out that the talks started on Monday will be continued on 28th October. Mr. Óry said that the host of



the meeting will be the MKP again. The MKP press release sent to the news agency Ma7.sk states that it is in the interest of the party to ensure genuine political representation for the Hungarian communities in Slovakia.



### István Pásztor: recalling mass murders is a part of remembrance for the Hungarian communities in Vojvodina

In Csúrog/Čurug on Sunday, commemorating the innocent executed victims of 1944-45, President of the Alliance of Vojvodina Hungarians (VMSZ) István Pásztor said that recalling the mass murders and atrocities against the Vojvodina Hungarians is part of the remembrance of the Hungarian communities in Vojvodina. He said that it is our responsibility to keep the memories of the victims, pay tribute to them and pass on this knowledge and responsibility to the next generations. Reprisals against Hungarians, the relocation of Hungarians in Csúrog/Čurug, Zsablya/Zabalj and Mozsor/ Mošorin, and banning them from these villages forever served to keep alive the concept that Hungarians are a guilty nation. István Pásztor stressed that the principle of collective guilt set out in legislation is a stigma on the whole Hungarian community in Vojvodina.



### The day of remaining in the homeland in Beregszász/Berehove

Pilgrimages to strengthen Hungarian identity, cultural and artistic programs and lectures were held in Beregszász/Berehove on Saturday on the Day of Remaining in the Homeland. The Movement for the Transcarpathian Homeland organized by local young people was aimed at creating a tradition. In his address at the closing event in the hall of the Ferenc Rákóczi II Transcarpathian Hungarian College of Higher Education, István Gera, Government Commissioner for governmental coordination of development projects in Szabolcs-Szatmár-Bereg County and Transcarpathia, said that it is of huge importance that young people in Transcarpathia launch a movement for their homeland. As a part of this they have organized the day of remaining in the homeland in Transcarpathia. They would like to ensure that neither the Hungarians nor other ethnic communities who have lived together in peace for centuries leave Transcarpathia. Mr. Gera concluded by saying that the hardship of everyday life may cause depopulation of this area.



### Croatia commemorates the heroes of the Hungarian Revolution of 1956

The Consulate General of Hungary commemorated the Hungarian Revolution of 1956 together with the Hungarian Language and Literature Faculty of the J.J. Strossmayer University of Eszék/Osijek and the Népkör (People's Circle) Hungarian Cultural Association of Eszék-Rétfalu/Osijek-Retfala. Following an address by the Hungarian



PRIME MINISTERS OFFICE  
STATE SECRETARIAT FOR HUNGARIAN  
COMMUNITIES ABROAD  
DEPARTMENT OF STRATEGIC PLANNING AND INFORMATION

consul of Osijek Béla Gárdos, the historical 1956 flag was raised. After this ceremony a commemoration program was held at the Hungarian Language and Literature Faculty of the University. In the afternoon wreaths were laid at the Hermann Paulina Castle, a temporary reception center for Hungarian refugees after the Revolution of 1956. The commemorative plaque on the wall of the building, which commemorates the events of 1956, was presented to Eszék/Osijek by the City of Budapest 21 years ago.



H-1055 BUDAPEST, KOSSUTH L. TÉR 4.  
PHONE: +36-1-795-48-14  
FAX: +36-1-795-01-46  
ADDRESS: H-1357 BUDAPEST, PB.: 2.