

# Weekly Media Review of Hungarian Communities Abroad

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## Semjén: the support of Hungarian communities abroad would be precarious without a strong kin-state

Speaking at the Hungarian National Assembly's Committee on National Cohesion on Monday, Zsolt Semjén – Deputy Prime Minister for Hungarian Communities Abroad, Church Affairs and Nationalities – pointed out that without a strong kin-state the support of Hungarian communities abroad would be more than precarious. In the annual committee meeting, Mr. Semjén mentioned that since 2010 support for Hungarian communities abroad has increased tenfold, which has made it possible for these policies to now be part of a strong unity. This includes support for national institutions and different competitions. He also mentioned the economic development program for Hungarian communities abroad and emphasized that this is good for Hungarian minorities and communities abroad, successor states and the entire Hungarian economy. He explained that 5,000 Hungarian institutions abroad have been supported, including 83 institutions and 12 programs of national significance and 170 further institutions and organizations.



## Viktor Orbán in Timișoara: Hungary is ready to build a new Central Europe

Speaking in the hall of Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Timișoara on Saturday at the commemorative conference for the 30th anniversary of the Timișoara revolution, Prime Minister Viktor Orbán pointed out that Hungary is ready to build a new Central Europe with its neighboring countries, including Romania. Mr. Orbán said that the goal is to make Central Europe one of the most competitive and successful regions in the world, where towns are connected by trains and highways and everyone has a job, and the real problem is how to employ people who come here from Western Europe. As he pointed out, “this can be the reality if we work together.” He also added that Hungary wants to break out from Europe's second-line member states and to be among the European countries with the best living standards, the most up-to-date technologies and the cleanest environment while remaining one of the safest countries in the world. He added that Hungary wants its workers to be as highly valued as those from countries which were not plundered by communism. As Mr. Orbán put it, this goal is easier to achieve together with neighboring states and he sees a chance of Hungary and Romania having common goals. Speaking of László Tőkés, Mr. Orbán pointed out: “if a young Calvinist pastor hadn't had the courage to confront those in power, we would have had to wait a very long time for the spark that blew the entire system sky high. All hail László Tőkés!”

## New church inaugurated in the New Millennium Reformed Church center in Temesvár

In Temesvár/Timișoara last Sunday a new church of the New Millennium Reformed Church center designed by Imre Makovecz was inaugurated on the 30th anniversary



of the revolution of 1989. The construction work started 21 years ago, and was boosted by the Hungarian government's support in 2017. László Tőkés delivered a sermon at the opening service. He pointed out that a miracle happened in Temesvár 30 years ago, and it happened again with completion of the construction of this church, and that a whole religious center is in the process of being built. State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad Árpád János Potápi quoted the famous luthier Stradivari, who said that the violins which sound the sweetest are those that have been made from the wood of trees which have weathered storms, and so he looked for such wood to craft violins. According to Mr. Potápi, life has also put the Hungarian nation to the test, and this is why Hungarians are able to create wonders such as this church. Mentioning that 2020 will be a year of national cohesion, Mr. Potápi said that this church will also be one of national cohesion. He added that the Hungarian government will continue to support the construction project.

### Temesvár 30 – László Tőkés: the revolution is not finished

At a gala for the 30th anniversary of the Romanian revolution, former pastor László Tőkés said that one cannot state that the revolution has been finished, and the fight must continue peacefully and steadily. Mr. Tőkés, who is from Temesvár/Timișoara, started the uprising against the Ceaușescu dictatorship. He honored the memory of the fallen freedom fighters and expressed his gratitude to those who fought the “forces of evil” in December 1989. He specifically mentioned the Calvinist Church in Temesvár and the Baptist Church that joined it. He declared that “without them, we would have fallen.” He thanked Viktor Orbán for the fact that Hungary is standing as one alongside Transylvania and its Romanian brothers and sisters.



### Unity of Hungarian Community gains over 5 percent of votes

According to the latest polls, 11 parties could enter the Parliament if the elections were held today. There is no surprise about the leaders, but a unified Hungarian formation, Unity of Hungarian Community has polled 5.2 percent. According to a survey by Polis, Smer-SD would win the elections (18.1 percent), and Focus agrees. Kotleba's party would come in second (12.1 percent), with Kiska's party third. Za ľudí stands at 10.1 percent, its rival PS-Polu on 9.5 percent and OĽaNO on 9.8 percent. In addition to these, SNS (7 percent), KDH (6.1 percent), SaS (5.2 percent), Sme Rodina (5.5 percent) and Most-Híd (“Bridge”, 5.2 percent) would enter the Parliament.



### Nacsa: Hungarians in Transcarpathia can always count on Hungary

Fraction spokesman of the Christian Democratic People's Party (KDNP) Lőrinc Nacsa has pointed out that Hungarians in Transcarpathia can always count on Hungary. Mr. Nacsa gave out packages and donations to families and children in need in



Perekhrestia (Tiszakeresztúr) and met local Hungarian representatives. He explained that these gifts send the message that Hungarians in Transcarpathia can always count on Hungary, which will continue to speak up in any forum against Hungarians being deprived of their rights. He stated that Hungary also stands by its position on Ukraine's approach to NATO. He called it unfortunate that Ukrainian politicians see Hungarians in Transcarpathia as a problem and not as an asset.



### Slovenian Economic Development Program is showing progress

According to the latest results of the Slovenian Economic Development Program, confirmed in Budapest, 222 applications out of 369 have been successful. The application published by ProFutura Institute for the Development of Regional Hungarian Communities (with a budget of HUF 2.8 million) concerns mostly agricultures and entrepreneurs. Those who were accepted signed the contracts on 11 December. Ottó Mocsnek, CEO of ProFutura pointed out that the institute sent e-mails to all the 369 candidates last week, after the confirmation arrived from Budapest.



### Szili: Hungarian government offers HUF one million to the Association of Hungarians in Kiev

On Friday the Prime Ministerial Commissioner for autonomy Katalin Szili confirmed that the State Secretariat for Hungarian Communities Abroad led by Árpád János Potápi has offered support of HUF one million to the Association of Hungarians in Kiev, which is celebrating its 30th anniversary. Honoring the anniversary, the association hosted a 3-day event and a memorial conference on Friday. At the conference Mrs. Szili emphasized that Hungarian communities living in the diaspora since 2010 are serving the whole nation, especially now that the 100th anniversary of the Treaty of Trianon is approaching. As the Commissioner stated, Hungarian organizations like the one in Kiev contribute significantly to favorable cooperation between Hungary and Ukraine. She said that Hungary and the Hungarian government will do everything in their power to strengthen relations between the two countries, considering their protection and interests.

