

# Weekly Media Review of Hungarian Communities Abroad

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PRIME MINISTERS OFFICE  
STATE SECRETARIAT FOR HUNGARIAN  
COMMUNITIES ABROAD

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## Potápi: Strong Hungarian communities live beyond the borders

State Secretary Árpád János Potápi has told the Hungarian daily Magyar Hírlap that “we would like 2020, the 100th anniversary of Trianon, to be about more than grief, looking back to the past and self-pity. We would like to emphasize even more that strong Hungarian communities live beyond Hungary’s borders.” State Secretary Potápi also talked about the most important programs related to policy for Hungarian communities abroad, emphasizing the Without Borders program, which provides Hungarian students with the opportunity to visit Hungarian communities abroad. He stressed that it is very important for young people to see that students beyond the borders lead very similar lives. He added that recent surveys show that Hungarian students know more about Hungarians abroad now than they did a few years ago: according to the Research Institute for Hungarian Communities Abroad, 77 percent of Hungarian students have visited Hungarian communities abroad and 61 percent have friends there. Talking about the 100th anniversary of Trianon, he mentioned that in addition to commemorative programs Hungary would also like to present shared successes and achievements. He stressed that the Hungarian nation should be proud of surviving against all odds, and of not only being the most populous nation in the Carpathian Basin, but also one of the most successful in Central Europe.



## Transylvanian institutions, organizations and clubs received significant Hungarian state support

The Hungarian government provides funding of approximately HUF 16 billion (EUR 47.5 million) for the development of organizations, churches, sports associations and clubs abroad, including in Transylvania. According to the decisions published on 27 December in Magyar Közlöny (Hungarian Gazette), numerous Transylvanian organizations, institutions and churches are entitled to funding. The Kőrösi Csoma Sándor Public Education Association, which was founded in Chiuruş (Csomakőrös) in 1990, has received funding of HUF 214 million for the foundation of the Kőrösi Csoma Sándor Documentation Memorial Center. The Hungarian government offered HUF 165 million for the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Alba Iulia and HUF 30 million for the Revolutionary Reformed Church in Timisoara. The Roman Catholic parish of Băile Tuşnad has been allocated HUF 108 million, and Hajongard Cemetery in Cluj-Napoca HUF 45 million.



## Gyula Bárdos: “Together we can succeed”

In his New Year speech, Gyula Bárdos, the President of Csemadok (Czechoslovak Hungarian Workers' Cultural Association) and leader of the Unity of Hungarian Community, shared his thoughts about 2020. He pointed out that “In the past year we had several reasons for disappointment with the leaders of the state: the Government,



the justice system and the legislature all let us down. We Hungarians were attacked in many ways. Some wanted to stop us from singing our national anthem, and some problems are becoming so much a part of our everyday life that we often don't even notice them anymore." He stressed that "The elections on 29 February are an opportunity both for Slovakia and Slovakian Hungarians. And this is just the beginning, as the possibility of change gives us hope. But to make this possible, everyone must contribute."



### The VMSZ would enter into alliance with the progressive party

Speaking to the Pannon RTV, the president of the Alliance of Vojvodina Hungarians (VMSZ) István Pásztor said that the VMSZ runs independently in the elections, but if elected, it would enter into alliance with the Serbian Progressive Party. Mr. Pásztor said that in the next four years, the process of Serbia's EU accession will speed up. This will bring "powerful legislation". According to Mr. Pásztor, it's important for the VMSZ to be part of this process. Talking about municipal elections, Mr. Pásztor pointed out that as much as the proportion of Hungarians allows, they will try to provide a Hungarian mayor everywhere. The president of VMSZ emphasized: "We hope that negotiations will lead to the opening of resources which allow the realization of different development projects."



### Hungarian government has a vested interest in restoring good neighborly relations with Ukraine

The Hungarian government has a vested interest in restoring good neighbourly relations with Ukraine, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade Péter Szijjártó stressed on Wednesday in response to the fact that in his New Year's address Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky also said a few words in the mother tongues of Ukraine's national communities, including in Hungarian. Based on the information sent by the Ministry to the Hungarian news agency MTI, the Minister takes the view that restoring good neighbourly relations would be equally beneficial for Hungary, Ukraine and the Hungarian community in Transcarpathia. "We believe it is a nice and important gesture that the Ukrainian president also said a few words in Hungarian in his New Year's address, and at the same time, we sincerely hope that his words will be followed by actions within the shortest possible time and the Ukrainian parliament will amend the laws on education and the use of minority languages in a way that will restore to Hungarians in Transcarpathia the rights they were earlier deprived of," the Minister stressed. Mr Szijjártó underlined that the Hungarian government is ready for a high-level dialogue, and also in the future they will be prepared to provide all assistance necessary for promoting Ukraine's swift development.