

# Weekly Media Review of Hungarian Communities Abroad

21/2021



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## Katalin Szili: the question of national minorities is top priority for the Hungarian presidency of the Council of Europe

Katalin Szili pointed out on Wednesday in Strasbourg that the four conferences planned by the Hungarian presidency on the protection of minorities include an overview of the relevant regulations of the Council of Europe and the experiences of non-governmental organizations and various institutes operating in the field. The participants of the conferences will get to know the issues of autonomy and self-government from a practical point of view, and want to outline a vision for the Council of Europe on the protection of minorities. As Ms. Szili informed, the Hungarian presidency wants the issue to remain in the council's agenda in the future.

## Approximately 300 secondary schools participate in the student travel program of Rákóczi Association

As part of the Year of New Beginnings and the Day of National Cohesion (June 4), the Rákóczi Association launched a student travel program that allows Hungarian secondary schools in the kin-state and abroad to visit important Hungarian historical sights and settlements, while respecting the pandemic rules. Thanks to the program, approximately 10,000 students from 300 schools can visit nearly 100 historical settlements.



## Csíksomlyó Pilgrimage: the parson preached loyalty to faith and the Holy Virgin

Preaching on Pentecost Saturday, parson József Salamon from Gyimesbükk/Ghimes-Făget of Moldavian origin talked about loyalty to faith, the Holy Virgin and Csíksomlyó/Șumuleu Ciuc. Mr. Salamon used his homeland expression to describe that the pilgrims feel at home in the mountain saddle. On Friday, State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad Árpád János Potápi, who carried prayer ribbons from Hungarians in the Carpathian Basin and all around the world, rode from Tusnádfürdő/Băile Tușnad to Șumuleu Ciuc on a horse.

## Back and forth: vaccinated Romanian citizens can cross the Hungarian border without restrictions

Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade Péter Szijjártó posted on his Facebook page that as of Saturday evening, vaccinated Romanian citizens can cross the Hungarian border without test or quarantine duty. He justified this decision on the grounds that, following the decision of the Romanian authorities on Friday, Hungarian citizens were free to travel to Romania, which is why another facilitation is now taking place on the Hungarian-Romanian border.



## Building nursery schools for the future: Saint Ladislav Nursery School of Nagyvárad is expanded with the support of the Hungarian government

The foundation stone of the Saint Ladislav Nursery school was laid on Monday in Nagyvárad/Oradea, the investment was supported by the Hungarian government as part of the Carpathian Basin Nursery School Development Program. Ministerial Commissioner for the coordination of the Carpathian Basin Nursery School Development Program István Grezsa highlighted that we are “building our future,” and expressed his hope that in the distant future, the time capsule hidden with the foundation stone will be opened, there will be someone who can read Hungarian.



## Potápi in Zenta: We need to strengthen our relations

State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad Árpád János Potápi pointed out on Thursday in Zenta/Senta that we need to strengthen our relations in order to be able to remain close, in spite of any conditions. Mr. Potápi and the Prosperitati Foundation launched a training program for Hungarian entrepreneurs called “My Successor is Ahead of Me” as part of the Hungarian government’s Vojvodina economic development program. According to Mr. Potápi, the training strongly contributes to the economic development program.



## Potápi: without the Hungarian program, a mass emigration would have started in Transcarpathia

Even though Transcarpathia is historically one of the most important of our annexed lands, it is also the hardest to live in for Hungarian minorities. If the Hungarian government had not launched a support program in response to the Ukrainian economic crisis of 2014, a mass emigration would have started in Transcarpathia. According to State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad Árpád János Potápi, the effect of the Transcarpathian social support package is obvious and visible. After a joint press conference with László Brenzovics, where they announced this year’s program package, Mr. Potápi told Hungarian news portal PestiSrácok (Lads of Pest) that since 2010, there has been a social, economic and political crisis in Ukraine and it affects the everyday life of Transcarpathia, too.

## Zelensky: We need to protect the national minorities in Ukraine

On Thursday in Kiev, Ukrainian president Volodymyr Zelensky pointed out in a press conference evaluating his 2-year presidency that national minorities in Ukraine need to be protected in their own regions, including the Hungarian minority, in order to avoid history repeating itself, referring to the events in Crimea and the Donbas. Mr. Zelensky said that he would like those who live in Beregszász/Berehove, for example, to be Ukrainian, but never forget their Hungarian roots.



## The Catholic Church in Žažina and a school in Petrinja rebuilt with Hungarian government's support

Speaking at the press conference in Sziszek/Sisak after signing the protocol for the renovation, Parliamentary and Strategic State Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade dr. Csaba Balogh said that the church and the school are the souls of every community. These buildings do not only symbolize Hungarian-Croatian friendship, but the will to live and reborn of the residents, as well. Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade Péter Szijjártó expressed his sympathy to the residents of the earthquake-stricken areas and Croatia during his visit in January.

