

# Weekly Media Review of Hungarian Communities Abroad

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PRIME MINISTERS OFFICE  
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COMMUNITIES ABROAD

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## Potápi: the past decade's policy for Hungarian communities abroad has been a historic success

In Budapest on 23 December, Árpád János Potápi, State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad, spoke at the launch of a book about the activities of the House of Hungarians over the past ten years. Mr. Potápi pointed out that the past decade's policy for Hungarian communities abroad, the aim of which has been to strengthen Hungarian identity and communities in the Carpathian Basin, has been a historic success. He added that another aim has been to reduce emigration and for more Hungarian children to be born, in order to increase the Hungarian nation in the Carpathian Basin. Mr. Potápi stated that the first acts in policy for Hungarian communities abroad were approving simplified naturalization, naming the Day of National Unity and providing voting rights to Hungarians abroad.



## "The Left has nothing to say to Hungarians abroad" – Árpád János Potápi on supports, RMDSZ and the campaign

In an interview on 23 December on the Transylvanian news portal Krónika ("Chronicle"), Árpád János Potápi pointed out that the opposition parties in Hungary want to turn Hungarians in Hungary and abroad against one another, and that they are resentful at the government's provision of citizenship for Hungarians abroad. Mr. Potápi also mentioned that development programs are continuing in Transylvania in spite of the pandemic. "As part of the New Beginnings Program, our first call was for developments and renovations, the second for the organization of programs and events. We also announced our twin town program. The Carpathian Basin Nursery School Development Program has progressed well, as have the developments in which the State Secretariat for Hungarian Communities Abroad also played a direct or indirect role – such as school developments, investments in universities, health care and historical churches."

## Sex education only with parental consent – EMSZ's child protection bill is ready

On 29 December the press office of the Association of Hungarians in Transylvania (EMSZ) informed Transylvanian news portal Krónika ("Chronicle") that EMSZ MPs József Kulcsár-Terza and Zoltán Zakariás filed their initiative to amend the Child Protection Act in the Bucharest Parliament. The EMSZ MPs, who won mandates on the RMDSZ list, examined the Romanian child protection law in force, paying particular attention to the protection of the birth identity of children. They stated that although the law guarantees this, it does not refer to the specific elements of identity.



### Potápi: We need to show political strength that Slovaks also admire

On 22 December the Slovak news portal Ma7 carried an interview with State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad Árpád János Potápi, in which he reviewed the past year. The topics covered in the interview were the following: new beginnings in the shadow of the pandemic; difficulties of the programs for Hungarian communities abroad; Slovak children in Hungarian nursery schools; the appropriate attitude to the criticisms from the Slovak government; reactions to press attacks against Hungarian support initiatives; issues related to Hungarian advocacy in Slovakia; problems of dual citizenship; and Alliance with or without platforms. Mr. Potápi pointed out that the renovation of churches and nursery schools is progressing at an excellent pace. He said, “as part of the nursery school development program, we can talk about nearly one thousand renovated and new nursery schools across the Carpathian Basin. The program has also produced spectacular results in Slovakia. The goal is for all parents to enroll all Hungarian children in Hungarian nursery schools so that our institutions are attractive inside and out – so that even Slovak children would go there.”



### Levente Magyar: the Vojvodina Economic Development Program has changed the quality of people's lives

Speaking in Szabadka/Subotica on 23 December, Levente Magyar, Parliamentary State Secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, said that over the past six years the Vojvodina Economic Development Program has made progress that has changed the quality of people's lives and helped prosperity abroad. Mr. Magyar added that as a result of the program, the Hungarian community in Vojvodina has made unprecedented progress in both advocacy and organization.

### István Pásztor: 2021 was mostly about remedying omissions

István Pásztor, president of the Alliance of Vojvodina Hungarians (VMSZ), gave an interview to Hungarian News Agency MTI, in which he reviewed and evaluated the year. He summed up 2021 as one of remedying the omissions of 2020 and preparing for 2022, when Hungarians in Vojvodina will be able to participate in seven different elections. He added that 2021 might seem boring at first sight, as there were no elections, but that at least it was not defined by the pandemic. Remedying omissions created a heated atmosphere, so the year was not uneventful, either.





### Szijjártó: We trust that 2022 will be more favorable for Ukrainian-Hungarian relations

At their meeting on 28 December, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Hungary Péter Szijjártó and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine Dmytro Kuleba confirmed their intention of improving bilateral relations between the two countries. In his Facebook page, Mr. Szijjártó stated that this will not be easy, but they are confident that 2022 will be more favorable for Ukrainian-Hungarian relations. He added that in recent years a great deal of work has been done to secure Hungary's energy supply and also to increase Hungary's role in the security of supply in Central Europe.

### László Brenzovics: the Transcarpathian Hungarian College of Higher Education is one of the most important bases for Hungarians in Transcarpathia

On the TV21 weekly show Hétről Hétre ("Week by Week") on 30 December, President of KMKSZ László Brenzovics pointed out that the Transcarpathian Hungarian College of Higher Education is one of the most important bases for Hungarians in Transcarpathia. According to Mr. Brenzovics, the institution is a good example of the willpower and vitality of Hungarians in Transcarpathia, as it is the first ever Hungarian-speaking college of higher education in Transcarpathia. Mr. Brenzovics stressed the importance not only of the college's establishment but its continued operation in recent decades.