

# Weekly Media Review of Hungarian Communities Abroad

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MINISTRY OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION  
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COMMUNITIES ABROAD

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### Hungary is prepared for every eventuality

In his Friday interview on Kossuth Radio, Prime Minister Viktor Orbán said that Hungary is following events in Ukraine with special regard to Hungarians who live in Transcarpathia. “We are paying attention to everybody and we are prepared for every eventuality,” he added. Mr. Orbán said that “Hungary has expressed its fellow-feeling and willingness to help Ukraine.” The Prime Minister also noted that there has been a session of the Hungarian operational body, the national security cabinet and the interior ministers of the Visegrád also have direct access to each other.

### All communities have the right to freely use their language

According to the Deputy State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad, every community has the right to retain and strengthen its culture, and to develop and freely use its own language. Zsuzsanna Répás spoke about these matters and other issues at the opening of a conference in Budapest last Thursday entitled “Native speakers abroad – from legal possibilities to realization”. As the Deputy State Secretary put it at a meeting of the Research Institute for National Policy, there is still a lot to be done regarding the full and free use of the Hungarian language abroad. That which is self-evident and natural in Hungary is often a difficult struggle for Hungarians in neighboring countries. Mrs. Répás stressed that language has the power to sustain communities.

### Number of Kőrösi Csoma Sándor Scholarship Program volunteers doubles

Speaking to journalists on Monday, Deputy Prime Minister Zsolt Semjén said that the number of volunteers taking part in the Kőrösi Csoma Sándor Scholarship Program supporting Hungarians living in diaspora will double this year to 100. In 2014 one hundred volunteers will have the opportunity to travel abroad in order to strengthen the relationship between the kin-state and the Hungarian communities living abroad, and the support for the scholarship program of 470 million forints will also double. Mr. Semjén added that so far 580,000 people have applied for simplified naturalization.

### PM Orbán meets Transylvanian Hungarian politicians

On Tuesday Prime Minister Viktor Orbán discussed the situation in Romania and the European parliamentary elections with Hunor Kelemen, leader of the ethnic Hungarian RMDSZ party of Romania. Mr. Kelemen told the Prime Minister that all the modifications important for Hungarians living in Transylvania had been rejected as, according to the Romanian Constitutional Court, the Parliament would be in violation of the Constitution by accepting them. The leader of the RMDSZ added that the body had decided upon questions that do not belong to its field of competence. According to Mr. Kelemen, questions such as the communities’ rights, the right to use minority symbols, the principle of cultural autonomy and the establishment of administrative sub-units within traditional regions are beyond the remit of the Constitutional Court. He added that in the field of community and minority rights this decision is considered a negative message, and will pose a serious obstacle to expansion of minority rights. The



RMDSZ stated that it does not approve of the amendment to the Constitution. Mr. Orbán and Mr. Kelemen agreed that after the elections Hungarian interests should be strongly represented both in the new European Parliament and within the European People's Party.

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### All-Hungarian cooperation for Cluj-Napoca/ Kolozsvár European Youth Capital 2015

On Tuesday at the Sapientia Hungarian University of Transylvania in Cluj-Napoca/ Kolozsvár, the organizers of the Cluj-Napoca/Kolozsvár European Youth Capital program discussed the Hungarian programs planned for the event in 2015. At the press conference held before the meeting, Deputy State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad Zsuzsanna Répás said that the youth capital program will prove not just for Kolozsvár but for the whole region that it is possible to initiate and organize programs from which everybody can benefit, regardless of their ethnicity. According to the Deputy State Secretary for Hungarian Communities, it is exemplary that the youth capital program has been initiated by a group of young Hungarian people which the local government and Romanian organizations could also join. "I hope that such a cooperation can be established on which other programs can be built in the future," Mrs. Répás said.

### EP election: EMNP will not participate, but supports Tóké's participation on Fidesz list

Tibor T. Toró, leader of The Transylvanian Hungarian People's Party (EMNP), has said that the party does not want to put at risk the representation of the Hungarians of Transylvania in the European Parliament, and therefore it will not launch its own party candidate list, but will ask party patron László Tóké MEP to accept the Fidesz invitation to participate on its party list in the EP elections. He added that the Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania (RMDSZ) had rejected EMNP's initiative to create an election coalition of the Transylvanian Hungarian political organizations, and on Saturday the RMDSZ announced that it will participate separately in the election. At its meeting in Székelyudvarhely/Odorheiu Secuiesc, the EMNP National Board said that the RMDSZ is putting at risk the representation of Transylvanian Hungarians in Brussels, and this representation can only be ensured if Mr. Tóké wins a mandate on the Fidesz party list and continues the work in Brussels that he started 7 years ago.

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### Viktor Orbán discusses presidential election with József Berényi

On Thursday in Esztergom Prime Minister Viktor Orbán discussed the approaching Slovakian presidential election and the European Parliament elections with József



Berényi, leader of the Hungarian Community Party (MKP) . Mr. Orbán and Mr. Berényi analyzed the political situation after the county elections in Slovakia, and they also discussed the Slovakian presidential election scheduled for March. In relation to the election, the MKP leader told Mr. Orbán that the nomination of MKP's candidate Gyula Bárdos has received positive feedback from the voters. Concerning the approaching EP elections, the Prime Minister and the MKP leader agreed that it is very important to have the largest possible number of Hungarian representatives in the European Parliament. The Prime Minister added that he will continue to support the Hungarian communities in Slovakia and the MKP.



### Alliance of Vojvodina Hungarians (VMSZ) announces election program

“Bravely, but responsibly” will be the motto of the VMSZ election program in the early parliamentary election in Serbia scheduled for next month. VMSZ leader István Pásztor said at a press conference that, as the largest Hungarian party in Vojvodina, the VMSZ has always benefited from well-organized and stable work, and it has broad support from those whose interests the party represents. The program of the VMSZ is a Hungarian program, but it “does not exaggerate the Hungarian community’s role,” Mr. Pásztor said. According to the party leader this program can be supported by all Hungarians living in Vojvodina.

VMSZ parliamentary group leader Bálint Pásztor said that processes that will take place in Serbia will be similar to those that have happened in Hungary over the past 4 years. He added that “even an amendment to the Constitution might take place, the support system for agriculture will be altered, the country will have a new labor law, and changes may take place both in the field of pension and health care insurance and in health care provision.”



### Ukrainian law on regional languages abolished

On Sunday the Ukrainian parliament abolished the language law adopted in 2012 that would have expanded the use of minority languages. This proposal was supported by 232 out of the 334 present Members of Parliament.

According to the law that entered into force 10 August 2012, any minority language could have obtained the status of a “regional language” if in a given region the number of members of the relevant minority exceeded 10% of the total population. As a result, the Hungarian language had been accepted as an official regional language in Beregszász/Berehove in Transcarpathia.

Oleh Tyahnybok, leader of the nationalist party Freedom, said that the law’s adoption was a constitutional violation, and promised to create a new language law that will satisfy everyone in the country.



By the end of the week Viktor Yanukovych's government had collapsed after bloody clashes in Ukraine which claimed the lives of more than 80 people. On Saturday the Parliament in Ukraine removed President Viktor Yanukovych from office, with 328 Members of Parliament voting for his removal. Olexander Turchinov has been appointed interim president, while Maidan commander Arsen Avakov has been appointed interior minister by the remaining Members of Parliament. Viktor Yanukovych has insisted that he will not resign as President of Ukraine, though he has escaped from Kiev/ Kyiv together with members of his government. The current situation in the country is uncertain.

### The Cultural Association of Hungarians in Transcarpathia (KMKSZ) condemns violence

The Cultural Association of Hungarians in Transcarpathia (KMKSZ) condemns all forms of violence that have taken place in Ukraine, and supports the validation of democratic human rights and European norms – this was the message of the KMKSZ presidency in their Wednesday announcement. Similar to all their compatriots, Transcarpathian Hungarians would like to live in a free and democratic country where their individual and collective rights can be fully exercised. The KMKSZ will make efforts to realize this in the future.

