

# Weekly Media Review of Hungarian Communities Abroad

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COMMUNITIES ABROAD

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## Prime Minister Viktor Orbán addresses the Hungarian Standing Conference (Máért)

Hungary is asking its allies to promote the country's interests, Prime Minister Viktor Orbán said, addressing the Hungarian Standing Conference (Máért) in Budapest, summing up those interests as peace, energy security and trade opportunities. The Prime Minister said that the Hungarian foreign policy can only be successful if every important player on the world stage is interested in Hungary's success, and "today we are in this position." Concerning the crisis in Ukraine, Mr. Orbán said that Hungary supports the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine. He also highlighted that 2014 was the year of elections in the Carpathian Basin during which the Hungarian advocacy became stronger. The Prime Minister announced that the next year would be dedicated to vocational training in the Carpathian basin. Currently almost 28-30,000 students take part in Hungarian-language vocational training in neighboring countries and the government would like to increase this number significantly. The Prime Minister added that the government would launch a scholarship program for students taking part in vocational training throughout neighboring countries.

The Hungarian nation is unified and indivisible, and if any of its parts is injured, the universal Hungarian nation will be behind it, Deputy Prime Minister responsible for Hungarian communities abroad Zsolt Semjén said after the session of the Hungarian Standing Conference. The Deputy Prime Minister said that the plenary session of the Máért was marked by peace, openness to compromise and constructiveness. He added that in the closing declaration of the conference the parties agreed that the parliament formed after the 2014 April elections is a national assembly which represents the whole Hungarian nation and serves the interests and the future of every Hungarian. Mr. Semjén said that the parties also agreed that the next year would be dedicated to vocational training in the Carpathian basin, adding that the Hungarian Government would allocate 500 million HUF to support vocational training in neighboring countries. The Deputy Prime Minister emphasized that Hungary would grant every financial, political and human support for the Hungarian community in Transcarpathia.

On Thursday evening President János Áder received the participants of the Hungarian Standing Conference in the Sándor Palace. Speaking at the reception, the President said that one of the most important events of the year concerning Hungarians was the adoption of the regulation abolishing the collective guilt of the Hungarian residents of three towns in Vojvodina, Csúrog/ Čurug, Zsablya/Žabalj and Mozsor/Mosorin. Mr. Áder added that this year was also important because it was the first time that Hungarians living abroad has an opportunity to express their political will concerning the kin-state.

## The Hungarian Diaspora Council holds its fourth session

There is one thing that has not changed in the past 25 years: uniting the nation across borders continues to remain our fundamental goal, Prime Minister Viktor Orbán stressed at the 4th meeting of the Hungarian Diaspora Council in the grand hall of the



Buda Castle Bazaar. The Prime Minister said that “in order to be able to unite the nation across borders, we need sovereignty”, adding that “the guiding principle of every political action is the protection of Hungarian interests and the restoration of Hungary’s sovereignty.”

Viktor Orbán confirmed that the National Register and the Kőrösi Csoma Sándor program designed to help scattered Hungarian communities would continue: 1 billion HUF is available in next year’s budget for the reinforcement of Hungarian cultural initiatives, and 500 million HUF has been allocated for the purposes of the Mikes Program which seeks to rescue the cultural values of scattered Hungarian communities.

At a press conference held after the session, Deputy Prime Minister responsible for Hungarian communities abroad Zsolt Semjén said that the simplified naturalization procedure is extremely popular among Hungarians living in the diaspora. Mr. Semjén confirmed that for the Government every Hungarian is equally important. Hungary is ready to support every organization the members of which are Hungarians and want to preserve their Hungarian identity.

The Hungarian Diaspora Council established in November 2011 is a meeting of Hungarian organizations from all over the world, creating a representative body for the global diaspora.



## Hunor Kelemen: the RMDSZ decides about its role in the government next week

The head of the Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Transylvania (RMDSZ) Hunor Kelemen has announced that the Standing Council of the party will decide next week whether it will stay or not in the Romanian government. Mr. Kelemen said that at their session they would evaluate the results of the presidential election in Romania, and would make a temperate and unemotional decision, with regard to the current political situation. He added that his party’s participation in the government is just a tool, and their further steps would be adjusted to the interests of the Hungarian community in Transylvania. The head of the RMDSZ added that they must analyze the measures which had caused dissatisfaction.

The participation of the RMDSZ in the government has become questionable because the vast majority of Hungarians voted for Klaus Johannis and not Prime Minister Victor Ponta in the second round of the Romanian presidential election held on 16 November.

## RMDSZ nominates Csilla Hegedűs as Minister of Culture

According to the Romanian news agency Mediafax, the head of the Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Transylvania (RMDSZ) Hunor Kelemen has announced that the RMDSZ has nominated State Secretary at the Ministry of Culture Csilla Hegedűs as Romania’s new Minister of Culture. This decision was made by the Standing Council



of the RMDSZ. Hunor Kelemen said that the timing of the new minister's nomination is not a "political signal" predicting the RMDSZ's further participation in the government. The reason of the nomination is that the period of the interim Minister of Culture (Victor Ponta) in office has been over.

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### State Secretary Árpád János Potápi congratulates the MKP on its success in Slovakia's municipal elections

At a conference organized by the Research Institute for Hungarian Communities Abroad on 17 November, State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad Árpád János Potápi said that this year has been the year of elections in the Carpathian basin and now the period of peaceful construction would begin. The State Secretary congratulated the Party of the Hungarian Community (MKP) on its success in Slovakia's municipal elections and said that there are several areas in which two countries and their Hungarian communities have to cooperate in order to reach their joint aims. The head of the MKP József Berényi said that his party's results in the elections gave them self-confidence.

The Party of the Hungarian Community (MKP) performed well in the municipal elections in held on 15 November. Among the parties launching independent mayoral candidates, the MKP reached the third best result. The party won 105 mayoral positions and will delegate 1140 local council members to the representative bodies, therefore, the party reached similar results than four years ago.

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### The Hungarian National Council holds its founding session

Vojvodina's Hungarian National Council (MNT) held its founding session on Monday afternoon in the city hall of Szabadka/Subotica. Everyone who had won mandate on the national council election on 26 October took part in the session. After the confirmation of the seats, the Hungarian National Council held its first regular session where the 30 members of the list entitled "Hungarian Unity" elected Jenő Hajnal, the director of the Institute for Hungarian Culture in Vojvodina president of the council.

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### Commemoration on the 70th anniversary of Transcarpathian Hungarians' deportation to Soviet forced labor camps

The Cultural Association of Hungarians in Transcarpathia (KMKSZ) organized a memorial march from Transcarpathia's Munkács/Mukachevo to Szolyva/Szvaljava with the participation of several hundred people, commemorating the 70th anniversary of the deportation of Transcarpathian Hungarians to the Soviet forced labor camps (gulags). The participants of the march followed the 26 km route of the



1944 deportation. The head of the KMKSZ and member of the Ukrainian Parliament László Brenzovics said that the march commemorating innocent Hungarians and Germans who had been deported in 1944 is extremely important since throughout fifty years it has been prohibited to speak about this tragedy which had affected almost every Hungarian family in Transcarpathia. Mr. Brenzovics said it was regretful that Ukraine still has not rehabilitated Hungarian men who were persecuted and killed innocently, although previously the Transcarpathia County Council had voted for their rehabilitation by a large majority. He emphasized that as a member of the Ukrainian Parliament, he will take all measures – similarly to his predecessors – in order to reach that the innocent victims, Transcarpathian Hungarians were officially rehabilitated.

