

# Weekly Media Review of Hungarian Communities Abroad

6/2015



PRIME MINISTERS OFFICE  
STATE SECRETARIAT FOR HUNGARIAN  
COMMUNITIES ABROAD

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## President János Áder opens Csángó Ball in Budapest

Opening the 19th Csángó Ball in Budapest on Saturday, President of Hungary János Áder said that national cohesion and national culture as well as brotherly love "can never be outdated." The President said that "being Hungarian is thinking in Hungarian, praying in Hungarian and caressing our children with Hungarian words." Mr. Áder added that this is the main source of our emotional world, which provides the frame for our rich and colorful culture. The event was attended by US ambassador Colleen Bell, the head of the Parliamentary Foreign Affairs Committee Zsolt Németh and representatives of ethnic Hungarian communities. The ball, featuring folk-dance programs, concerts, exhibitions and other events at several venues, was organized by the Pro Minoritate Foundation and the Moldavia Hungarians' Federation. The annual Csángó festivals seek to call public attention to the grave social and economic challenges facing Csángós and to win support for efforts helping them to survive. The Csángó community, an ethnic Hungarian group, lives in Romania's Moldavia region, and comprises about 250,000 members.

## A new program supporting dispersed Hungarian populations in the Carpathian Basin is launched

State Secretary for Hungarian communities abroad Árpád János Potápi has informed the Hungarian daily Magyar Nemzet that his state secretariat will launch a new program worth HUF 350 million (EUR 1.1 million) in March, aimed at stopping the assimilation of Hungarian communities living in dispersed populations in the Carpathian Basin. The state secretary added that the Hungarian government has also allocated HUF 500 million to support Hungarian vocational education abroad. The new program supporting dispersed Hungarian communities in the Carpathian Basin is expected to be launched in March, giving fifty young people the opportunity to spend 6-9 months in dispersed Hungarian communities in the Carpathian Basin from 1 August 2015 onwards, thus helping the people there to strengthen their Hungarian identity. The interns' task will be to organize community and cultural events and to teach Hungarian language, history and folk dances. The state secretary added that the program targets young people, since "our future and the nations' permanence depends on our children," but they also hope to reach parents through children. Target destinations for the program will include the Csángó Land (Moldavia), the Czech Republic, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Macedonia, Southern Poland and Austria.



## Bilingual place-name signs in Kolozsvár is finally rejected

On Thursday the court of Kolozsvár/Cluj Napoca adopted a final ruling, rejecting a former judgment which had ordered the mayor's office to install Hungarian place-name signs in the town alongside the official Romanian ones. According to the decision of the court, published on its website, the European Hungarian Human Rights Foundation registered in the Netherlands has no competence to decide on



Hungarian place-name signs in Kolozsvár. On the basis of the foundation's legal action, the Court of Kolozs County decided in July 2014 that Hungarian place-name signs must be placed in the town, despite the number of Hungarians living in Kolozsvár not reaching the 20% threshold stated in the law.

The fact that the mayor's office appealed against the ruling in the first instance favorable to the Hungarian community caused conflict between the Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania (RMDSZ) and its Romanian coalition partners. The legal representative of the foundation attached a document to the court report containing the signatures of thousands of Hungarians who declared that they support and demand Hungarian-language place-name signs in Kolozsvár.



### Prime Minister Viktor Orbán holds talks with the leaders of Slovakia's Hungarian community

Prime Minister Viktor Orbán has had talks with the leaders of the Party of the Hungarian Community (MKP) and Csemadok (Hungarian Social and Cultural Association of Slovakia) on the ministerial decree affecting Slovakia's Act on Citizenship introduced by Minister of Interior Robert Kaliňák. The parties discussed the fact that the ministerial decree on citizenship brings no progress for the Hungarian community in Slovakia. In addition to the head of the MKP József Berényi and the president of Csemadok Gyula Bárdos, State Secretary for Hungarian communities abroad Árpád János Potápi also participated in the meeting. The parties discussed the situation of the Hungarian community in Slovakia, including the issue of language rights, the possibilities for economic cooperation between Hungary and Slovakia, and the planned building of the new bridge on the river Danube and new border crossing points between the two countries.



### MEP Andor Deli visits the Hungarian National Council

On Wednesday MEP Andor Deli (Fidesz), who represents the Hungarian community of Vojvodina in the European Parliament, visited the headquarters of the new Hungarian National Council (MNT). Mr. Deli had talks with the members of the MNT, discussing the current problems of the Hungarian community in Vojvodina. Concerning future plans, the parties declared that soon they will launch an essay competition for young Hungarians, aimed at getting them involved in EU programs and making them familiar with the institutions of the European Union. According to the plans, those young people will be able to apply for the competition who have already won a scholarship from the MNT. The prize for successful applicants will be a trip to the European Parliament.



## The Hungarian Parliament's National Security Committee holds session on the situation of Transcarpathian Hungarians

On Tuesday the National Security Committee of the Hungarian Parliament held a closed session on the Ukrainian conflict – in particular, on the situation of the Hungarian community in Transcarpathia. During the more than two-hour session, State Secretary for Law Enforcement at the Ministry of Interior László Tasnádi, Director General of the Constitution Protection Office László Göbölös, Director General of the Information Office István Pásztor and national police chief Károly Papp gave information on the situation in Ukraine. The participants at the session paid special attention to the situation of minorities in Ukraine, especially the Hungarian community in Transcarpathia.

Meanwhile, the State Border Guard Service of Ukraine has denied news stories claiming that the country's military reserves centers are demanding that people eligible for military service who want to leave the country must apply for permission to do so. The head of Transcarpathia's military reserves centers Ivan Vasilcjun also confirmed at a press conference that there is no restriction concerning border crossing in Ukraine.

On Friday the head of the Hungarian Maltese Charity Service Imre Kozma informed the Hungarian news agency MTI that during the past few days, the number of Transcarpathians arriving at the Hungarian Maltese Charity Service has increased. Mr. Kozma added that the organization ensures space for them in its institutions and offices.

