

# Weekly Media Review of Hungarian Communities Abroad

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PRIME MINISTERS OFFICE  
STATE SECRETARIAT FOR HUNGARIAN  
COMMUNITIES ABROAD

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## Needs and opportunities in vocational education

On Wednesday, the closing event of a conference series – held in Transylvania – on the current situation and future of Hungarian-language vocational education in Romania was organized at the Teleki Education Centre in Transylvania's Szováta/Sovata, consisting of lectures and round-table discussions. The forum series entitled Vocational education – Economy – Society the venues of which included Sepsiszentgyörgy/Sfântu Gheorghe, Csíkszereda/Miercurea Ciuc, Székelyudvarhely/Odorheiu Secuiesc and Stováta/Sovata, was attended by the representatives of educational institutions, local authorities, economic and political life as well as researchers. Addressing the event, State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad at the Prime Minister's Office Árpád János Potápi said that the Hungarian Government has allocated 500 million HUF (1.6 million EUR) for the program "2015 – the year of Hungarian vocational education abroad" in order to draw attention to the importance of vocational education among Hungarians living in neighboring countries. The state secretary emphasized that Hungarians' permanence in their homeland cannot be realized without the economic strengthening of these communities. He added that "Hungarian communities can be strengthened by different means: we can strengthen enterprises, as well as vocational education in order to ensure professions for young people which are competitive in today's labor market and are useful for the current economy."

## Victor Ponta's government is "unwavering"

The National Anticorruption Directorate (DNA) of Romania has questioned Prime Minister of Romania Victor Ponta on suspicion of forgery, tax evasion and money laundering. According to the DNA, the Prime Minister who is the president of the Social Democratic Party (PSD) committed these crimes between 2007 and 2008, during his practice as a lawyer.

Concerning the issue, the leaders of Hungarian parties in Romania agreed that Victor Ponta should resign from his position as Prime Minister because of the prosecution brought against him. The head of the Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania (RMDSZ) Hunor Kelemen said that the situation of the prime minister was "complicated". The president of the Hungarian Civic Party (MPP) Zsolt Biró also stated that the Prime Minister should resign, saying that the one who is in charge of this position must not be even suspected of issues like this. The head of the Hungarian People's Party of Transylvania (EMNP) Zsolt Szilágyi also supported the standpoint that Mr. Ponta should resign from his post.

At its session on Tuesday, Romania's parliament refused to lift Prime Minister Victor Ponta's immunity from prosecution after he was questioned on suspicion of forgery, tax evasion and money laundering. Among the members of the parliament present, 231 MPs voted against the withdrawal of immunity and initiating the investigation, while only 120 MPs voted in favor of it.

The opposition National Liberal Party (PNL) initiated a motion of censure against the Prime Minister, but – according to the expectations – Mr. Ponta has won the vote.



After the vote, the Prime Minister announced with pleasure that the dispute about whether “there is a stable parliamentary majority behind his government” has come to an end. Responding to the opposition who demanded the Prime Minister’s resignation because of suspicion of corruption, Mr. Ponta said “a political crisis would not be useful for the country now.”



### President of Slovakia Andrej Kiska visits Komárom

During his visit in Komárom/Komárno on 9 June, President of Slovakia Andrej Kiska had talks with the leaders of the town on unemployment, the economic situation of the region and infrastructural problems. The president also visited the J. Selye University where he met the leaders and students of the institution. The President stressed that Komárom is an excellent example of the coexistence between Hungarians and Slovaks which could serve as a model for other regions. The vice-mayor of the town, Béla Keszegh said that during the visit, the delegation of Komárom draw the President’s attention to the importance of symbolic steps taken for national minorities. The vice-mayor added that “bilingualism and multilingualism are very important issues”, adding that “they make all efforts to realize bilingualism.”



### Hungary fully supports Ukraine in reaching its integration goals

State Secretary for Economic Diplomacy Levente Magyar received Chairman of the Transcarpathia Regional Council Volodimir Chubirko and President of the Cultural Association of Hungarians in Transcarpathia (KMKSZ) László Brenzovics in his office. At the discussion Mr. Magyar declared that the Hungarian government is committed to the joint development of foreign trade relations between Ukraine and Hungary especially in the fields of transportation and water management. Mr. Magyar emphasized that a strong Ukraine is of prior importance for Hungary. The closer physical interconnection between Hungary and Transcarpathia is a common economic interest of both countries. The state secretary added that as a result, they plan to open several new border crossing points, the first one being the one between Hungary’s Nagyhódos and Ukraine’s Nagypalád/Velika Palagy.

### Ádám Zoltán Kovács signs agreement on the continuation of Eastern Partnership program

On 12 June, Deputy State Secretary for international cooperation at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Hungary (KKM) signed a further agreement under the Eastern Partnership program of the European Union on development aid worth 155 million HUF (EUR 495,000) in Ukraine’s Beregszász/Berehove. The agreement was signed by the president of the Cultural Association of Hungarians in Transcarpathia (KMKSZ) László Brenzovics and head of the Ferenc Rákóczi II. Transcarpathian



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Hungarian Institute (II. RF KMF) Ildikó Orosz at the II. RF KMF. Speaking at the event, the state secretary stressed that the Eastern Partnership program serves the permanence and development of the Hungarian community in Transcarpathia. It focuses – primarily – on social, health care and educational institutions which are crucially important for the whole community. Mr. Kovács expressed his hope that after the expiration of the current one-year phase of the program, it will continue.

