

# Weekly Media Review of Hungarian Communities Abroad

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PRIME MINISTERS OFFICE  
STATE SECRETARIAT FOR HUNGARIAN  
COMMUNITIES ABROAD

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## First three interns of the Petőfi Sándor Program have departed

Ministerial Commissioner responsible for monitoring cross-border investments at the Prime Minister's Office István Grezsa has announced that the first three interns of the Petőfi Sándor Program will travel to Bosnia, Slovenia and Moldavia (Bákó county). The further 47 interns of the program will start their work in August, travelling to dispersed Hungarian communities living in the territory of the former Austro-Hungarian Empire. Mr. Grezsa said that the task of the 50 interns chosen from 168 applicants will be to "give faith and hope to dispersed Hungarian communities", and strengthen their Hungarian identity. The ministerial commissioner added that before their departure, the interns will take part in a one-week education in Budapest, led by the most prominent experts of the field.



## Restitution of church properties: US Committee on the Budget urges a report

According to a statement of the Hungarian Human Rights Foundation (HHRF) (New York) sent to the Hungarian news agency MTI on Sunday, the Committee on the Budget of the U.S. House of Representatives has amended the budget law of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the US, including the case of the Romanian restitution of church properties in the law. The HHRF stressed in its statement that this precedent-setting decision also urges the preparation of a report in the issue. This decision was made on 11 June, one week after the head of the Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania (RMDSZ) Hunor Kelemen and his delegation's visit to Washington.

The head of the RMDSZ Hunor Kelemen highlighted that the decision of the Committee on the Budget made last week might restart the process of restitution of church properties in Romania, which has been stagnating. Mr. Kelemen recalled that the aim of his recent visit to Washington was to persuade his negotiating partners that respecting human rights, minority rights and the right of property is part of safety. He also expressed his pleasure that the reaction of the negotiating partners was extremely fast, expressing his hope that "a realistic report will be submitted to the Congress which might restart the process of restitution in Romania."

## Romanian Senate adopts draft law on declaring 13 November the Day of Hungarian Language

On Tuesday the Romanian Senate adopted a draft law initiated by the Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania (RMDSZ) on declaring 13 November the Day of Hungarian Language in Romania. The draft law received 62 votes in favor, 4 abstentions and no votes against. According to the draft law initiated by the RMDSZ, on 13 November different cultural events would be organized in towns inhabited by Hungarians, which could be supported by both local municipalities and civil organizations. The draft law also suggests that the Romanian public media should broadcast different festive TV and radio programs on this day. If the parliament



adopts the draft law, Hungarian-language schools in Romania will have an opportunity to celebrate the day of Hungarian language officially in Romania.



## Memorial plaque dedicated to Hungarian and German victims of WW II inaugurated in Pozsony-Ligetfalu

On Saturday a memorial plaque was inaugurated in Pozsony-Ligetfalu/Petržalka, near the mass graves of Hungarians and Germans who were executed after the Second World War by the soldiers of the Czechoslovakian army. According to the documents which have been disclosed so far, the massacre – which took place in several phases – had at least 530 victims, while according to estimations this number reached several thousand, including men and women, elderly and children. The victims were buried in six mass graves. The commemoration was organized by several Hungarian civil organizations in Slovakia, including the Csemadok. The event and the preparation of the memorial plaque was also supported by the Government of Hungary and Member of the European Parliament Pál Csáky (representing Party of the Hungarian Community (MKP)).

## MEP Pál Csáky writes to the Minister of Education

On 17 June Member of the European Parliament (Party of the Hungarian Community (MKP)) and vice-president of the Committee on Petitions of the European Parliament Pál Csáky wrote to the Minister of Education of Slovakia Juraj Draxler in connection with the planned reforms in minority schools. In his letter, Mr. Csáky emphasized that the opinion of the people who signed the petition must be taken into account during the reforms.

As it has been previously reported, Slovakia's Ministry of Education is planning to decrease the number of mother tongue classes and that of optional classes in minority language-schools.



## István Pásztor: Hungarian-Serbian closer of border would also be useful for Serbia

Reacting to Hungary's Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade Péter Szijjártó's announcement made on Wednesday according to which the Hungarian Government has instructed Minister of the Interior Sándor Pintér to prepare for closure of the Hungarian-Serbian border by erecting a four-metre-high fence, the president of the largest Hungarian party in Vojvodina, the Alliance of Vojvodina Hungarians (VMSZ) István Pásztor said that Hungarian-Serbian closer of border would also be useful for Serbia. Mr. Pásztor pointed out that "if the migrants cannot enter the European Union this way, they will be likely to avoid this area." Mr. Pásztor added that despite this fact, the closure of the Hungarian-Serbian border will not solve the problem of illegal



immigration in Serbia. He added that this problem would be solved only if Serbia took the same measures on its southern borders. The head of the VMSZ said that his party supports the aspirations of the Serbian Government aimed at decreasing the number of illegal immigrants.



### The next wave of mobilization has begun in Ukraine

The sixth wave of military mobilization started in Ukraine on Thursday which – according to the announcement of the Ukrainian Government – was necessary due to the continuing intensive fights in the Eastern parts of the country. On Wednesday night, heavy fights took place along the front line, near Donetsk, Marinka and Luhansk. Since the beginning of the armed conflict in Eastern Ukraine in April 2014, reserves have been mobilized in three waves. The fourth wave of mobilization started on 20 January 2015 and lasted for 90 days. The fifth wave began in April, while the sixth wave – which has just begun – is planned to last for 60 days.



### State Secretary Miklós Soltész holds talks with the representatives of Hungarians in Croatia

State Secretary for Church, Nationality and Civil Society Relations Miklós Soltész has held talks with the leaders of churches and Hungarian civil organizations in Croatia's Eszék-Baranya/Osječko-baranjska county. The parties discussed demographic crisis in Europe, as well as the permanence and strengthening of Hungarian communities and Christianity. The state secretary met the leaders of the Democratic Union of Hungarians in Croatia (HMDK), the bishop of the Reformed Christian Calvinist Church of Croatia (HRKKE) and the catholic archbishop of Diakovár/Đakovo Djuro Hranic. Mr. Soltész said that during the talks he had an opportunity to get an insight into the Croatian educational system as well as the life of the local Hungarian community.

