

# Weekly Media Review of Hungarian Communities Abroad

34/2015



PRIME MINISTERS OFFICE  
STATE SECRETARIAT FOR HUNGARIAN  
COMMUNITIES ABROAD

NPKI | RESEARCH INSTITUTE FOR HUNGARIAN  
COMMUNITIES ABROAD



## Ten people receive the Award for Hungarian Communities Abroad

On the occasion of Saint Stephen's Day and the establishment of the Hungarian state, the Awards for Hungarian Communities Abroad were presented this year again in the building of the Hungarian National Assembly. Speaking at the ceremony, Deputy Prime Minister responsible for Hungarian communities abroad and president of the Christian Democratic People's Party (KDNP) Zsolt Semjén said that "August 20 calls on all Hungarians to be little Saint Stephens in the field of life in which they find themselves." The Deputy Prime Minister stressed that the work of Saint Stephen can be continued only if everyone works "as a little Saint Stephen in their own role." Mr. Semjén emphasized in his speech that Hungary must recognize those people symbolically those whose work contribute to the preservation of Hungarians' identity. State Secretary for Hungarian Communities Abroad at the Prime Minister's Office Árpád János Potápi said that the Government must enact measures which promote the birth of more children among Hungarians. The state secretary added that the Government must also encourage that Hungarian youth living in the Carpathian Basin or in dispersed Hungarian communities chose Hungarian-language schools. As an example, Mr. Potápi mentioned the intention to strengthen Hungarian vocational education abroad.

This year ten people received the Award for Hungarian Communities Abroad, which is awarded by the Prime Minister of Hungary at the recommendation of the Deputy Prime Minister for outstanding results in work for Hungarian communities abroad in the fields of public life, education, culture, church activities, science or economic self-organization.

## Research Institute for Hungarian Communities Abroad: Hungarian community building abroad must be made more effective

Speaking on Hungary's public media channel M1 on Saint Stephen's Day, the head of the Research Institute for Hungarian Communities Abroad (NPKI) Zoltán Kántor said that the NPKI together with the Hungarian state and the Hungarian political parties abroad hope that community building abroad can be made more and more effective. Mr. Kántor said that since 1990, but especially since 2010, Hungary has supported the processes aimed at the strengthening of Hungarian community building abroad more intensively. He added that Hungary has taken concrete steps to expand these communities' opportunities in the field of education and improving the quality of Hungarian-language education abroad as well as to enhance their opportunities in the labor market. Mr. Kántor said that in addition to this, the Hungarian Government in cooperation with Hungarian political parties abroad strives to ensure more rights and opportunities for Hungarian communities abroad on the international stage as well.



## Hungarian Days in Kolozsvár

Addressing the opening ceremony of the Hungarian Days in Kolozsvár/Cluj Napoca, the head of the foreign affairs committee of the Hungarian National Assembly Zsolt Németh spoke of the necessity of renewal. In connection with the approaching 500th



anniversary of the Reformation and the 100th anniversary of the Treaty of Trianon, Mr. Németh said that the Reformation “reformulated Europe and Hungarians”, and after the Treaty of Trianon Hungarians were able to “reformulate Transylvania”. The head of the foreign affairs committee added that today, when these anniversaries are approaching, the necessity of renewal is present again. Speaking at the closing ceremony of the event, Minister of National Development Miklós Seszták said that “where the tongue of politics and diplomacy stutters, culture and the arts always speak fluently.” The minister stressed in his speech that with his 50,000-strong Hungarian population, its educational, cultural and arts institutions Kolozsvár is one of the most important bastions of the Hungarian nation. Mr. Seszták added that “Kolozsvár is the cultural capital of Transylvania, and it is the worthiest place to be the cultural capital of Europe in 2021.”

### SZNT: The deterioration or Romanian-Hungarian relations is the fault of the Romanian Government

According to the Szekler National Council (SZNT) the deterioration or Romanian-Hungarian relations is the fault of the Romanian Government. In their statement sent to the Hungarian news agency MTI, the representatives of the SZNT state that “in spite of the current increasing anti-Hungarian atmosphere in Romania, Hungary’s Ambassador to Bucharest Botond Zákonyi spoke as a real diplomat and gave objective and correct answers to the journalist’s questions in his August 10 interview, which was criticized by the Romanian Foreign Ministry and Prime Minister of Romania Victor Ponta. The statement says that “the SZNT finds the Romanian reactions exaggerated, unacceptable, insulting and unjustified both in their style and content. In our opinion it tells a lot about Romania’s Prime Minister that in spite of paying attention to the real problems of his country, he spends days insulting and defaming the Prime Minister of Hungary.”

In an interview published in the daily Romania Libera on 10 August, Hungary’s Ambassador to Bucharest Botond Zákonyi said that bilateral relations depended in part on infrastructure cooperation, but in this area the Romanian side “fails to demonstrate sufficient goodwill.” The Hungarian ambassador mentioned the Szeged-Arad gas pipeline and its planned upgrade, which would enable two-directional gas supplies. Currently gas only flows in the direction of Romania. Mr. Zákonyi said Romanian authorities should create the conditions for the upgrade to go ahead. The ambassador added that an important project to link ten roads either side of the border has also stalled. As a result of his statements, Mr. Zákonyi was summoned to the Romanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, while the Romanian Prime Minister Victor Ponta said in connection with the issue that “Hungary is provoking Romania”.





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## Deputy Prime Minister Zsolt Semjén receives the president of the VMSZ in Parliament

Deputy Prime Minister responsible for Hungarian communities abroad Zsolt Semjén received the president of the Alliance of Vojvodina Hungarians (VMSZ) István Pásztor in Parliament. The head of the VMSZ reported on the current issues affecting the Hungarian community in Vojvodina, and the situation of Vojvodina programs aimed at the preservation of the Hungarian language and national culture, supported by the Hungarian Government. The Government of Hungary considers the Alliance of Vojvodina Hungarians its strategic partner, and the joint programs will continue in the future as well. The parties also discussed the issue of the border blockade which is currently under construction, and agreed to inform each other continuously about the development of the issue.

